

CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION
focus
RAU'S HOUSE JOURNAL

**SPECIAL
EDITION**



EXHAUSTIVE CURATION
using **C3** Approach

TO THE POINT

LUCID
presentation for
SPEEDY REVISION

**Practice
MCQs**

PRELIMS **2022** **COMPASS**

C3 = CORE+CURRENT AFFAIRS+related CONCEPTS

Rau's IAS
Study Circle
— Since 1953 —

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

GS INTEGRATED QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (QIP)



① SUBJECT WISE - CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASSES

② TEST SERIES - PRE & MAINS INTEGRATED

③ REVISION CLASSES for PRELIMS via MCQS

④ REVISION CLASSES for MAINS via Q&As

→
Start Now

Prelims

Mains

GSI - QIP 2022 started July 2021. Admission Open.



Scan the QR code to:

- **Learn More/ Download Brochure** - GSI QIP 2022
- Watch **Demo QIP lectures**
- Watch what **students' review** of QIP classes



CONTENTS

PREFACE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 01
THEMES ASKED IN PRELIMS EXAM IN THE LAST THREE
YEARS 02

PART - A INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

03

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS 04

- ▶ AUKUS SECURITY PARTNERSHIP 04
 - ▶ MIDDLE EAST QUAD 04
 - ▶ INDIA'S ARCTIC POLICY 07
- ▶ COLOMBO SECURITY CONCLAVE 08
 - ▶ POLITICAL NEUTRALITY 08
- ▶ FIRST INDIA-CENTRAL ASIA SUMMIT 09
- ▶ NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) 09
 - ▶ WARSAW PACT 10
- ▶ COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION 10
- ▶ ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY & COOPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE) 10
 - ▶ WAR CRIMES IN BUCHA 10
 - ▶ MONTREUX CONVENTION 11
 - ▶ BIMSTEC CHARTER 11
- ▶ INDIA - US FOUNDATIONAL DEFENCE AGREEMENT 11
 - ▶ UN CONVENTION FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA 12
 - ▶ GLOBAL GATEWAY PROGRAM 13
 - ▶ INDIA-JAPAN SUMMIT 13
 - ▶ ILO CONVENTION 182 14
 - ▶ HONG KONG'S BASIC LAW 14
- ▶ GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR VACCINE AND IMMUNIZATION (GAVI) 15
 - ▶ COALITION FOR EPIDEMIC PREPAREDNESS INNOVATIONS 15
- ▶ NEW ORIENTATION FOR REFORMED MULTILATERAL SYSTEM (NORMS) 16
 - ▶ MALABAR NAVAL EXERCISES 16
 - ▶ NEPAL POLITICAL MAP 16

- ▶ DELHI REGIONAL SECURITY DIALOGUE ON AFGHANISTAN 17
- ▶ AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN TRANSIT TRADE AGREEMENT 17
- ▶ TIR CONVENTION 17
- ▶ UNSC 1267 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE 17
- ▶ JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION (JCPOA) 18
- ▶ INSTEX BARTER MECHANISM 18
- ▶ MEKONG GANGA COOPERATION 18
- ▶ AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION) 19
- ▶ CURRENCY SWAP FRAMEWORK 19
- ▶ GLOBAL INTERNET FORUM TO COUNTER TERRORISM (GIFCT) 19
- ▶ ECOSOC CHAMBER 19
- ▶ STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL AGREEMENT 20
- ▶ LUCKNOW DECLARATION 20
- ▶ THREE SEAS INITIATIVE 20
- ▶ KARTARPUR CORRIDOR 20
- ▶ ARIA (ASIA REASSURANCE INITIATIVE ACT) 21
- ▶ COMPREHENSIVE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM 21
- ▶ TRIANGULAR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN ASIA AND AFRICA 21
- ▶ CAATSA 21
- ▶ BBIN MOTOR VEHICLES AGREEMENT (BBIN MVA) 21
- ▶ IMPORTANT AGREEMENTS 22

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS 23

- ▶ UNITED NATIONS 23
- ▶ OUR COMMON AGENDA 25
- ▶ UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL 27
- ▶ UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME 28
- ▶ AFRICA 50 29
- ▶ GLOBAL HEALTH FOR PEACE INITIATIVE (GHPI) 29
- ▶ FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE 29
- ▶ 13TH BRICS SUMMIT 30
- ▶ SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION (SCO) 30
- ▶ INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) 31

- ▶ ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION 31
 - ▶ INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ) 31
- ▶ INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA (ITLOS) 32
 - ▶ ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION & DEVELOPMENT 33
- ▶ INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION (ICAO) 33
 - ▶ INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO) 33
 - ▶ OPEC AND OPEC+ 34
- ▶ INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) 34
 - ▶ UNHCR: 1951 REFUGEE CONVENTION 34
- ▶ DEVELOPMENT LEVEL CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES 35
- ▶ INDO-PACIFIC PARKS PARTNERSHIP (I3P INITIATIVE) 35
 - ▶ SAARC 35
- ▶ SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (SASEC) 36
 - ▶ ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK 36
 - ▶ NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK 36
- ▶ ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK (AIIB) 36
 - ▶ INTERPOL 36

- ▶ COALITION FOR DISASTER RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE 41
 - ▶ IBSA (INDIA, BRAZIL & SOUTH AFRICA) 41
 - ▶ SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION 42
 - ▶ NORTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION 42
 - ▶ QUADRILATERAL SECURITY DIALOGUE (QUAD) 43
 - ▶ BASIC COUNTRIES 43
 - ▶ INDIA-ASEAN SUMMIT 43
 - ▶ EAST ASIA SUMMIT (EAS) 44
 - ▶ ASIA INTERNET COALITION 44
 - ▶ WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION 45
 - ▶ COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS 45
 - ▶ CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA (CICA) 45
 - ▶ ASIA COOPERATION DIALOGUE 45
 - ▶ NON - ALIGNED MOVEMENT 46
 - ▶ ALLIANCE FOR MULTILATERALISM 46
 - ▶ BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 46
 - ▶ UN COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW 46
 - ▶ 1ST COMMITTEE OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY - VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS 47
 - ▶ 6TH COMMITTEE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY 47

INTERNATIONAL GROUPINGS 37

- ▶ APEC 37
 - ▶ NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) 37
- ▶ INDIAN TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (ITEC) 37
 - ▶ RIC TRILATERAL MEET 37
 - ▶ UN-HABITAT ASSEMBLY 38
 - ▶ INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION (IORA) 38
 - ▶ INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION 38
 - ▶ INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL SYMPOSIUM (IONS) 38
 - ▶ G4 38
 - ▶ COFFEE CLUB / UNITING FOR CONSENSUS 39
 - ▶ G7 39
 - ▶ G20 39
 - ▶ SHIMLA AGREEMENT, 1972 40
 - ▶ LAHORE DECLARATION, 1999 40
 - ▶ INDIA-PACIFIC ISLAND COOPERATION (FIPIC) 40
 - ▶ INDIA-CARICOM LEADERS' SUMMIT 40
 - ▶ GLOBAL SOLAR COUNCIL 41
 - ▶ C40 WORLD MAYOR'S SUMMIT 41

INDIA AND THE WORLD 48

- ▶ INDIA CHINA BORDER DISPUTE 48
- ▶ AFGHANISTAN - SHAHTOOT DAMC 48
- ▶ BANGLADESH CONNECTIVITY 48
 - ▶ TEESTA RIVER WATER SHARING AGREEMENT 49
- ▶ INDIA – AUSTRALIA 49
- ▶ INDIA – TAIWAN 49
- ▶ ASIA – EUROPE MEETING (ASEM) 50
- ▶ AYEYAWADY-CHAOPHRAYA-MEKONG ECONOMIC COOPERATION STRATEGY (ACMECS) 50
- ▶ INDO-PACIFIC OCEANS INITIATIVE 50
- ▶ UNSC RESOLUTION 1540 (2004) 50
- ▶ UNSC RESOLUTION 2538 50
- ▶ ARRIA FORMULA MEETINGS OF UNSC 51
- ▶ G-77 51

ARMS CONTROL 52

- ▶ JOINT STATEMENT ON PREVENTING NUCLEAR WAR & AVOIDING ARMS RACE 52
- ▶ TREATY ON PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS / NUCLEAR WEAPON BAN TREATY 52

- ▶ OUTER SPACE TREATIES 53
- ▶ NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP 53
- ▶ CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT 54
- ▶ CIVIL NUCLEAR COOPERATION 54
- ▶ HAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT 54
- ▶ WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT 54
 - ▶ AUSTRALIA GROUP 55
- ▶ INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) 56
- ▶ INTERNATIONAL PANEL ON FISSILE MATERIALS 56
- ▶ MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME 56
- ▶ CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION 56
 - ▶ OPEN SKIES TREATY 57
 - ▶ INF TREATY 57
 - ▶ NEW START TREATY 58
 - ▶ ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT) 58
- ▶ COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY ORGANISATION (CTBTO) 58
- ▶ BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION, 1972 58
- ▶ MALAYSIA RAIL PROJECT 64
- ▶ BANGLADESH-CHINA-INDIA-MYANMAR ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (BCIM) 64
- ▶ INTERNATIONAL NORTH-SOUTH TRANSPORT CORRIDOR (INSTC) 65
- ▶ CHABAHAR PORT 65
- ▶ KALADAN MULTIMODAL TRANSIT TRANSPORT PROJECT 65
- ▶ INDIA-MYANMAR-THAILAND TRILATERAL HIGHWAY 66
- ▶ MOTIHARI-AMLEKHGUNJ PIPELINE 66
- ▶ POWER OF SERBIA GAS PIPELINE 67

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY 68

- ▶ NEW POLITICAL MAP OF PAKISTAN 68
- ▶ PANGONG TSO 68
- ▶ EAST CONTAINER TERMINAL AT COLOMBO 69
- ▶ AYN AL ASAD AND ERBIL 69
- ▶ SOME IMPORTANT MAPS 69
- ▶ GLOBAL STRATEGIC CHOKE POINTS 71
- ▶ SOUTH ASIA / SOUTHEAST ASIA 73
- EAST KALIMANTAN PROVINCE 73
- DAMS ON BRAHMAPUTRA 73
- CHATTOGRAM AND MONGLA PORTS 73
- KALAPANI AREA 74
- KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA 74
- BALUCH LIBERATION ARMY 74
- MANGDECHHU HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANT, BHUTAN 74
- KARTARPUR CORRIDOR 75
- KHASH – ZAHEDAN 75
- NANKANA SAHIB 75
- UIGHUR MUSLIMS 75
- MUSTANG REGION 76
- BHASAN CHAR ISLAND 76
- FENI RIVER 76
- SIACHEN GLACIER 77
- ▶ WEST ASIA/MIDDLE EAST 77
- RAQQA, DEIREZZOR AND BAGHOUZ 78
- MANBIJ 78
- IDLIB 78
- ABQAIQ AND KHURAI 78
- ERBIL 78
- HODEIDAH, SALIF AND RAS-ISSA 79
- STRAIT OF HORMUZ 79
- PORT OF DUQM 79

NON-CONVENTIONAL SECURITY 59

- ▶ CLIMATE SECURITY MECHANISM 59
- ▶ SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE INITIATIVE 59
 - ▶ THE CLEAN NETWORK 59
 - ▶ PRAGUE PROPOSALS 59
 - ▶ DIGITAL TRUST STANDARD 59
- ▶ EU 5G CYBERSECURITY TOOLBOX 60
 - ▶ D 10 NATIONS 60
- ▶ BLUE DOT MECHANISM 60

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS 61

- ▶ PYONGYANG JOINT DECLARATION 61
- ▶ ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT 61
- ▶ HONG KONG CRISIS 62
- ▶ ROHINGYA CRISIS 62
- ▶ LIBYA CRISIS 62

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS 63

- ▶ BELT & ROAD INITIATIVE 63
- ▶ CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CPEC) 63
 - ▶ CHINA-MYANMAR ECONOMIC CORRIDOR 63
 - ▶ CHINA-NEPAL ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CNEC) 64

→RAS TANURA PORT	79	▶BLACK SEA	86
→ATBARA	79	▶RIVERS DRAINING INTO THE BLACK SEA	86
→ARAK, NATANZ AND FORDOW	79	▶MAJOR RIVERS OF EUROPE	86
→AL-AQSA MOSQUE	79	▶NORD STREAM 2 PIPELINE	86
▶INDIAN OCEAN REGION	80	▶BALTIC SEA	87
→GREAT CHANNEL	80	▶MINSK ACCORDS	87
→CHAGOS ISLANDS (DIEGO GARCIA)	80	▶AGALEGA & ASSUMPTION ISLANDS	87
→COLOMBO, NEGOMBO AND BATTICALOA	81	▶MASIRAH – OMAN	87
→SAINTHAMARUTH	81	▶PANJSHIR	87
→VANILLA ISLANDS	81	▶NANGARHAR – AFGHANISTAN	88
▶PACIFIC OCEAN REGION	81	▶NINE DASH LINE	88
→SOLOMON ISLANDS AND KIRIBATI ISLANDS	81	▶TERRITORIAL SEAS UNDER UNCLOS	88
→BOUGAINVILLE	82	▶INNOCENT PASSAGE	89
→KURIL ISLANDS	82	▶GREEN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP	89
▶EURASIA	82	▶TRINCOMALEE	89
→VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA	82	▶YEMEN LOCATIONS	89
→LITHUANIA, LATVIA & ESTONIA	83	▶KAZAKHSTAN	89
▶EAST ASIAN SEA	83	▶COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANISATION (CSTO)	90
→SENKAKU/ DIAOYU ISLANDS DISPUTE	83	▶PANGONG TSO LAKE	90
→PANMUNJOM VILLAGE	83		
▶SOUTH CHINA SEA	83		
▶TAIWAN ISSUE	84		
▶GLOBAL CRISIS RESPONSE GROUP ON FOOD, ENERGY & FINANCE	84		
▶GREEN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP	84		
▶MARIB	84		
▶CAM RANH BAY BASE	85		
▶KUNDUZ	85		
▶UKRAINE	85		
▶NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES OF UKRAINE	86		

PART-B

MCQs & ANSWER KEYS

91

- ▶MCQs 92
- ▶ANSWER KEYS 96

Preface

International Relations

Dear Learner,

International relations and foreign policy issues comprise an interesting section of UPSC exam. Though its overt weightage may be less in the Preliminary examination (3-5 questions per year), it is very relevant in the mains exam. Also, sometimes an understanding of IR helps us attain information which helps us solve questions.

In this edition of International Relations, our effort is to provide students with a document that comprehensively captures the developments in IR in the last one year. We have provided some practice questions also at the end of the book.

Hope you excel in the upcoming UPSC Prelims Exam.

All the best!!!

Rau's IAS Study Circle

Themes asked in Prelims Exam in the last Three Years

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS		
PRELIMS 2021 - TOPICS	PRELIMS 2020 - TOPICS	PRELIMS 2019 - TOPICS
1. UN Habitat	1. International Agreements - Subject (Talanoa etc)	1. AIIB
2. UN Capital development Fund - Hyderabad	2. G20 countries	2. 'General Data Protection Regulation' - EU
3. Laureus World Sports Award	3. IAEA safeguards	3. 'Action Plan for Prioritization and Implementation of Cooperation Areas in the Nuclear Field'
4. 32 nd Summer Olympic	4. West Texas Intermediate	4. United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)
5. ICC World Championship		5. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)

Part - A

**INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS**

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

► AUKUS SECURITY PARTNERSHIP

USA, UK & Australia have formed a security partnership in the Indo-Pacific with an aim to counter Chinese aggression. This group has been created in addition to the already existing collaborations like QUAD, 5 eyes alliance etc.

OBJECTIVE

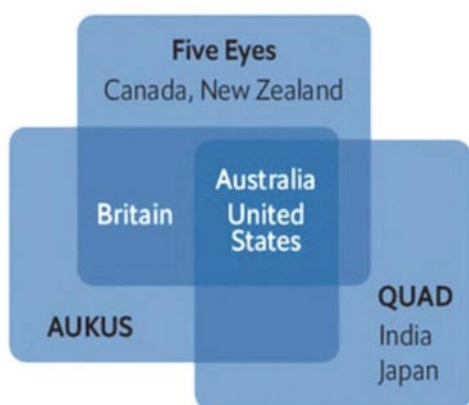
Aims to ensure that there will be enduring freedom and openness in the Indo-Pacific region.

KEY FEATURES

- Complements several pre-existing similar arrangements for the region, including the **Five Eyes intelligence cooperation initiative, ASEAN, and Quad.**
- Proposes to **transfer technology to build a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines for Australia.**
- Australia will **become only the second nation, after the U.K.,** that the U.S. has ever shared its nuclear submarine technology with.
- Australia is a non-nuclear weapon state. Use of Nuclear-Powered Submarine seems to be a grey area under the NPT.

FIVE EYES INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION

- An intelligence alliance **comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK,** and USA. These countries are parties to the multilateral UKUSA Agreement, a treaty for cooperation in signals intelligence.



► MIDDLE EAST QUAD

*The term has gained currency after the first ever meeting between the foreign ministers of **India, Israel, UAE, and USA.** Its formation was facilitated by **a thaw in Israel – Arab relations because of Abraham Accords.***

CONTEXT OF FORMATION OF THE MEQ

- Abraham accords resulted in smoothening Israel-Arab Faultline. This has facilitated initiation of the so-called New Quad in the Middle East involving US, Israel, UAE and India.
- New Quad is being seen as a new Security architecture in the Middle East.
- This is shaping up at a time when the US is withdrawing from the region.
- The region is also witnessing increased presence of China.

OBJECTIVE

- Expanding economic and political cooperation in the Middle East and Asia, including through trade, combating climate change, energy cooperation, and increasing maritime security.

SIMILARITIES BETWEEN MEQ AND QUAD

Middle East Quad VS Indo – Pacific Quad

India and US are common members – signifying strategic closeness

Israel would view it as a counter to Iran, While US sees IPQ as a counter to China

Both are not seen as military alliance

IPQ has been focusing on global concerns like – Climate Change, COVID vaccines etc.

Similarly, MEQ has also called for Economic and Infrastructure cooperation.

IPQ countries take part in MALABAR exercise, While Israel has invited UAE as an observer to the Blue Flag Air force with India and US.

For India both are partnerships beyond neighborhood having implications on the neighborhood.

Both aim at broader goal of countering Chinese influence.

DIFFERENCES

MIDDLE EAST QUAD	INDO – PACIFIC QUAD
A new concept – formed because of Abraham Accords	Has developed gradually over past 15 years.
Strategic Focus is yet to be outlined.	Definite Strategic focus – Free and Open Indo-

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

	Pacific
Role of other members is yet outlined	Focuses on ASEAN centrality
It focuses on Economic collaboration through Private companies	It focusses on goals to be achieved through G2G collaboration
If it aims to counter Iran, India already has strong relations with Iran	IPQ has been strengthened by the India - China border tensions.
No parallel military partnership with common objectives	AUKUS can be seen as a parallel military partnership to the IPQ.

ABRAHAM ACCORD

Abraham accord refers to establishment of full diplomatic ties between UAE & Bahrain with Israel under a deal brokered by United States.

- UAE & Israel have agreed to establish full diplomatic ties as part of a deal to halt annexation of occupied land sought by Palestine for their future state.
- Makes UAE **first Gulf Arab state** to do so & **third Arab nation after Egypt and Jordan** to have active diplomatic ties to Israel.
- UAE was followed by **Bahrain** to become the **second Gulf Arab state** and **fourth Arab nation** to normalise ties with Israel.
- "Abraham Accord" is used to refer collectively to agreements between Israel and UAE (**Israel-United Arab Emirates normalization agreement**) and Israel and Bahrain, respectively (**Bahrain-Israel normalization agreement**).
- The accords are **named after patriarch Abraham**, regarded as a prophet by both the religions of Judaism and Islam, and traditionally considered a shared patriarch of the Jewish and Arab peoples.

ARAB COUNTRIES

- Arab countries are group of 22 countries which are members of the **Arab League**.
- Arabic is the lingua franca throughout the Arab world.
- All Arabic speaking nations are not part of Arab world.

- Malta, an island country in Southern Europe whose national language also derives from Arabic (through Sicilian Arabic), is not included in the region.
- Chad & Eritrea also recognize Arabic as one of their official languages but are not included in the region because they are not members of the Arab League.



ARAB LEAGUE

- Arab League or the League of Arab States is a regional organization of African and Western Asian countries.
- Formed in Cairo in 1945 initially with six members: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria.
- Presently the league has 22 nations - Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Yemen, Iraq, Syria (**membership suspended**), Tunisia, Oman, Lebanon, Qatar, the Comoros, Sudan, Palestine, Algeria, Mauritania, Libya, Djibouti and Somalia.
- Its goal is to "draw closer the relations between member states and co-ordinate collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries".
- **Six countries have observer states**—Eritrea, Brazil and Venezuela, **India**, Armenia and Chad.
- In a response to the UAE & Bahrain normalising their ties with Israel, the Palestinian Authority has formally stepped down from a key role in the Arab League.

BEIRUT DECLARATION

- Result of joint statement issued by 20 countries of Arab League in 2019 in Arab Economic and Social Development Summit.
- Called for establishment of an Arab free trade zone and urged the international community to support nations hosting Syrian refugees.

ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBOURS



- Israel & Arab states fought 3 wars: 1956 Suez conflict, 1967 Six-Day War & 1973 Yom Kippur War.
- In 1967 Middle East War, Israel captured the West Bank and East Jerusalem, Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip and Golan Heights.

GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL

- GCC was established by an agreement concluded on 1981 in Riyadh among Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE in view of their special relations, geographic proximity, similar political systems based on Islamic beliefs, joint destiny and common objectives.



SINAI PENINSULA



AGREEMENTS RELATED TO ISRAEL-PALESTINE CRISIS

- 1967 – UN Security Council Resolution 242

After the Six-Day War, U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 called for the “withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict” in return for all states in the area to respect each other’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.
- 1978 – Camp David agreement

Israel and Egypt agree on a framework for regional peace that called for an Israeli withdrawal in stages from Egypt’s Sinai and a transitional Palestinian government in the West Bank and Gaza.
- 1993-1995 – Oslo Accords

Israel and the PLO hold secret talks in Norway that resulted in interim peace accords calling for the establishment of a Palestinian interim self-government and an elected council in the West Bank and Gaza for a five-year transitional period, Israeli troop withdrawals and negotiations on a permanent settlement.
- 2002-2003 – Bush Declaration/Arab peace initiative/Road Map

George W. Bush became the first U.S. president to call for the creation of a Palestinian state, living side-by-side with Israel “in peace and security”. It was popularly termed as a Two - State Solution to the Israel Palestine Conflict.

MAP OF ISRAEL, PALESTINE AND MEDITERRANEAN



► INDIA'S ARCTIC POLICY

Union Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) released India's Arctic Policy. The Policy document is titled '*India and the Arctic: Building a partnership for sustainable development*'.

SALIENT FEATURES OF INDIA'S ARCTIC POLICY

The policy lays down Six Pillars of India's Arctic Policy:

- Strengthening India's scientific research and cooperation.
- Climate and environment protection.
- Economic and human development.
- Transportation and connectivity.
- Governance and international cooperation.
- National capability building for Arctic region.

NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS DEALING WITH ARCTIC

- National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa an autonomous institute under Ministry of Earth Sciences is the nodal institution for India's Polar research program, which includes Arctic studies.
- India's Arctic Policy will be implemented by an action plan and reviewed by inter-ministerial Empowered Arctic Policy Group.
- India has set up an underground observatory, called IndARC, at the Kongsfjorden fjord, halfway between Norway and the North Pole.
- India's first Arctic research station, Himadri is located at Spitsbergen, Svalbard, Norway.

INSTITUTIONS RELATED TO ARCTIC

Svalbard Treaty 1920	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognises the sovereignty of Norway over archipelago of Svalbard. This archipelago is an entirely visa-free zone and demilitarised zone. • India's first engagement with the Arctic Region.
Arctic Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-level intergovernmental forum that addresses issues faced by the Arctic governments and indigenous people of the Arctic. • Ottawa Declaration of 1996 established the Arctic Council. • Membership: 8 countries exercise sovereignty over lands within the Arctic Circle and all these 8 are members of Arctic Council. They are Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and USA. • Arctic Communities: Aleutians (USA & Russia); Athabaskan (USA & Canada); Gwich (USA & Canada); Inuit (Greenland, Canada, USA, Chukchi Peninsula of Russia, Saami People (Russia, Finland, Norway & Sweden) • Observers: 13 observers (India has

	<p>observer status in the Arctic Council).</p>
<p>Arctic Economic Council (AEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an independent organisation that facilitates Arctic business to business activities, sustainable and responsible economic development through the sharing of best practices. It was created by Arctic Council. Membership: Membership of AEC is open to corporations, partnerships and indigenous groups that have an economic interest in the Arctic. <p>AEC works through it 5 working groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maritime Transportation Working Group Investment & Infrastructure Working Group Responsible Resource Development Working Group Connectivity Working Group Blue Economy Working Group
<p>Arctic Investment Protocol</p>	<p>These are guidelines of Arctic Economic Council to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth in the Arctic region.</p> <p>AIP lays down foundation for responsible Arctic development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build resilient societies through economic development. Respect and include local communities and indigenous people Pursue measures to protect the environment of the Arctic Practice responsible and transparent business models Consult and integrate science and traditional ecological knowledge Strengthen Pan-Arctic collaboration and sharing of best practices.

► **COLOMBO SECURITY CONCLAVE**

The first Colombo Security Conclave Virtual Workshop on 'Developing Regional Cyber Security Capabilities on Defensive operations, Deep/Dark Web handling and Digital forensics' was hosted by National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), Government of India.

ABOUT COLOMBO SECURITY CONCLAVE

- Members:** India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Mauritius.
- Observers:** Bangladesh & Seychelles.
- The Deputy NSA level meeting in August 2021 had identified **pillars of cooperation** under the Colombo Security Conclave:
 - Maritime safety and security.
 - Terrorism and Radicalisation.
 - Trafficking and Organised Crime.
 - Cyber Security and Protection of Critical Infrastructure.
 - Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.

► **POLITICAL NEUTRALITY**

Recently, India's President visited Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan's follows foreign policy guided by the principle of '**Permanent Neutrality**'. Five Fundamental tenets of Policy 'Permanent Neutrality' are:

- Ensuring peace and security
- Promoting neutrality
- Diversifying economic relations
- Promoting social development
- Humanisation of international relations

INITIATIVES OF INDIA-TURKMENISTAN RELATIONS

1. **TAPI Gas Pipeline:** TAPI stands from Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India. It is a proposed gas pipeline project bringing natural gas from Turkmenistan to India. The pipeline is fed by the Galkynysh gas field in Turkmenistan, which is world's 2nd largest gas field. It passes through Afghanistan & Pakistan is supposed to end at Fazilka in Punjab, India.

2. **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**
 It is a 7200 km long multi-modal transport network of ship, rail and road route for moving freight between Europe and India via Iran. The route crosses on train Russia and Azerbaijan. Foundation of INSTC corridor was laid in 2000 by an agreement between India, Iran and Russia. Thirteen countries have joined the agreement later (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Armenia, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey and Ukraine). Iran has developed **Astara Port** on the Caspian Sea as part of INSTC. Bandar Abbas port is currently used by the route. Chabahar Port developed by India is not included in the INSTC Framework. India is pitching for inclusion of Chabahar Port in the INSTC corridor.

Turkmenistan is currently not a member of INSTC Agreement.

- 3. **Ashgabat Agreement:** Envisages facilitation of transit & transportation of goods between Central Asia and Persian Gulf and establishment of an International Transport and Transit Corridor. The agreement was entered into force in 2011 between Iran, Oman, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. India formally joined the agreement in 2018. Kazakhstan and Pakistan are also a member.

► **FIRST INDIA-CENTRAL ASIA SUMMIT**

First India-Central Asia Summit (heads of state/government level) happened in January 2022. Prime Minister of India and Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan participated in the meeting. It

marked 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian countries.

IMPORTANT TAKEAWAYS

- India-Central Asia Summit to be held every two years.
- India to establish an 'India-Central Asia Centre' in New Delhi which would act as the secretariat for India-Central Asia Summit.
- **Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism:** It is an initiative of Kazakhstan at the UN which calls upon all countries to take 10 steps that could help eradicate terrorism by 2045. It is voluntary and non-legally binding instrument that reinvigorates collective commitment to coordinate and collaborate in the fight against Terrorism, reinforces mechanisms for regional and international cooperation and demands a coherent and comprehensive response from the UN.



ORGANISATIONS RELATED TO RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS

► **NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)**

Russia attacked Ukraine, highlighting that Ukraine acceding to NATO would be a security threat to Russia. Ukraine has been seeking the NATO's support against Russia. This attack has started the debate about the cold war alliances.

- NATO is Military alliance of countries from Europe and North America. It provides a link between the 'Western countries' of the two continents.
- NATO membership is open to any other European country which adheres to the principles of NATO and

to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area.

- A NATO decision is the expression of the collective will of all 30 member countries since all decisions are taken by consensus.
- NATO's core tasks are: Collective defense, Crisis-management & Cooperative security.
- Principle of 'Collective Defense' under which an attack against one or several of NATO members is considered as an attack against all.
- The principle of collective defence is enshrined in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty.
- NATO invoked Article 5 for the first time in its history after the 9/11 terrorist attacks against the United States.

- NATO has taken collective defence measures on several occasions, for instance in response to the situation in Syria and in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

► WARSAW PACT

- Warsaw Pact, formally Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance, (May 14, 1955–July 1, 1991) treaty establishing a mutual-defense organization (Warsaw Treaty Organization)
- Composed originally of the Soviet Union and Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Romania.
- Ended with the disintegration of Cold war.

► COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION

- Started in 1992 by the heads of Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Later, it was joined by Azerbaijan, Belarus and Georgia (1993).
- Key Article 4 of the Treaty states: "If one of the States Parties is subjected to aggression by any state or group of states, then this will be considered as aggression against all States Parties to this Treaty"

MUNICH SECURITY CONFERENCE

- The Munich Security Conference is an annual conference on international security policy that has been held in Munich, Bavaria, Germany since 1963.
- The Munich Security Conference is the world's leading forum for debating international security policy. It is a venue for diplomatic initiatives to address the world's most pressing security concerns.
- The list of attendees includes heads of states, governments and international organizations, ministers, members of parliament, high-ranking representatives of armed forces, science, civil society, as well as business and media.

► ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY & COOPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)

- It is world's largest regional security organisation with a membership of 57 countries. OSCE works to build & sustain, peace and democracy
- Origins of OSCE date back to the Helsinki Final Act (1975) and the creation of the Conference on Security & Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).
- The body is rooted in the **concept of indivisibility of**

security in Europe. Helsinki Principles lays 10 principles for security in Europe.

- **Membership:** 57 participating states are members of the body. Members come from North America, Europe and Asia.

► WAR CRIMES IN BUCHA

Bucha is a city near Kyiv, capital of Ukraine. Ukraine has accused of Russian Security Forces to have committed war crimes by killing civilians.

GENEVA CONVENTION

- Geneva Conventions are set of four treaties, and three additional protocols, which establish international legal standards for humanitarian treatment in war.
- Define the basic rights of wartime prisoners (civilians and military personnel), established protections for the wounded and sick, and provided protections for civilians in and around a warzone.
- Defines rights & protections afforded to non-combatants.
- The treaties of 1949 were ratified, in their entirety or with reservations, by 196 countries.
- Geneva Conventions concern only prisoners & non-combatants in war; they do not address use of weapons of war, which are addressed by Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, which concern conventional weapons, and Geneva Protocol, which concerns biological and chemical warfare.

FOUR CONVENTIONS WHICH ARE PART OF GENEVA CONVENTION

- **First Geneva Convention:** Protects wounded and sick soldiers on land during war.
- **Second Geneva Convention:** Protects wounded, sick and shipwrecked military personnel at sea during war.
- **Third Geneva Convention:** Protects prisoners of war, including a wide range of general **protections** such as human treatment, maintenance and equality across prisoners, conditions of captivity, questioning and evacuation of prisoners etc.
- **Fourth Geneva Convention:** Protects civilians, including those in occupied territory.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURTS & WAR CRIMES

- The jurisdiction of the ICC shall be limited to the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. The Court has jurisdiction in accordance with this Statute with respect to the following crimes:

- (a) Crime of genocide.
 - (b) Crimes against humanity.
 - (c) War crimes.
 - (d) Crime of aggression.
 - **Article 12 of Rome Statute** (Foundation agreement governing the International Criminal Court) provides jurisdiction over the citizens of non-contracting states if they are accused of committing crimes in the territory of one of the state parties.
 - Both Ukraine and Russia are not parties to the International Criminal Court. However, Article 12 of Rome Statute allows states to accept the jurisdiction of the court if crimes under Rome Statute happened against its citizens or State on the territory of which the crime in question occurred.
- MONTREUX CONVENTION**
- Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits is simply known as Montreux Convention. It is an international agreement governing the Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits in Turkey.
 - It was signed in 1936 addressing the Straits Question as to who should control the strategically vital link between Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea.
 - Guarantees complete freedom of passage for all civilian vessels during peacetime and permits Turkey to restrict the passage of navies not belonging to Black Sea states.
 - Turkey has recognised Russian invasion of Ukraine (2022) as war enabling Turkey.

► BIMSTEC CHARTER

At the 4th BIMSTEC Summit held in Nepal in 2018, it was decided to task the BIMSTEC Secretariat to prepare a preliminary draft of the charter for the organisation, building on the 1997 Bangkok Declaration, defining a long-term vision and priorities for cooperation. BIMSTEC Charter was adopted in the 5th BIMSTEC Summit held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

SALIENT FEATURES OF BIMSTEC CHARTER

- **BIMSTEC Summit:** It will comprise of Heads of State or Government of the Member States. It will be supreme decision-making body of BIMSTEC. Summit meetings will be held every two years, preceded by the Ministerial Meetings and will be hosted by the Member State holding BIMSTEC Chairmanship. Summit will decide on inclusion of new members to BIMSTEC.

- **BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting:** Meetings of foreign relations ministers of member states. Ministerial meetings will happen every year.
- **Reorganisation of BIMSTEC:** BIMSTEC cooperation activities will take place in 7 pillars. Each pillar will be led by one of the member states, who will be primarily responsible for furthering cooperation. India will lead the security pillar. The seven pillars are: (a) Trade, Investment & Development (b) Environment & Climate change (c) Security (d) Agriculture & Food security (e) People to People contact (f) Science, Technology & Innovation (g) Connectivity.

OTHER INITIATIVES UNDER BIMSTEC

- Member countries are negotiating a Free Trade Agreement under BIMSTEC.
- BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity. This is a voluntary plan for boosting across BIMSTEC countries. The plan has been developed by Asian Development Bank.

ABOUT BIMSTEC

- It originated through the **1997 Bangkok Declaration** to leverage on BIMSTEC's unique position as a bridge linking South and Southeast Asia.
- Members are **India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan from South Asia, with Myanmar & Thailand from Southeast Asia.**
- BIMSTEC Secretariat is in **Dhaka, Bangladesh.**

► INDIA - US FOUNDATIONAL DEFENCE AGREEMENT

- India and the United States signed the **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)**, the last of four so-called foundational agreements for sharing sensitive information, sales of advanced military hardware and geospatial cooperation, during the 2+2 ministerial dialogue.
- US requires its strategic partners to sign 4 foundational agreements to enable the strategic engagement including sharing of information, technology transfer, extension of logistic facilities etc.
- The 4 foundational agreements include GSOMIA, BECA, LEMOA, COMCOSA.
- With this India has signed all the four Foundational Defense agreements the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (**LEMOA**), the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (**COMCASA**), the General Security of Military Information Agreement (**GSOMIA**) and the

the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA).

- An extension to the GSOMIA, the Industrial Security Annex (ISA), was signed at the last 2+2 dialogue

GSOMIA (GENERAL SECURITY OF MILITARY INFORMATION AGREEMENT)

- This is an agreement signed to safeguard the information that is shared during a technology transfer.
- India signed this agreement in 2002, this covered only Indian government and PSUs.
- The ISA annexure to GSOMIA safeguards information shared to private sector during the technology transfer.

LEMOA (SIGNED IN 2016)

- Logistic Exchange Memorandum of Agreement
- Modified version of the Logistics Support Agreement (LSA).
- It will enable access to each other's military facilities for purposes of refueling and replenishment.

COMCASA (SIGNED IN 2018)

- Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement
- Will safeguard information w.r.t communications equipment in weapons such as precision armament, air- to-air missiles, UAVs, fighter jets, space systems and navigation systems etc.

ABOUT THE BASIC EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT (BECA)

- The Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) is essentially an agreement proposed between the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency of the US department of defence and the defence ministry that will allow India and the US to share military information which includes maps, nautical and aeronautical charts, commercial and other unclassified imagery, geodetic, geophysical, geomagnetic and gravity data.
- Most of the information that will be shared will be that of the unclassified category but there is a provision of sharing classified information as well with proper safeguards in place to ensure that the information is not shared with any third party.

WHAT WILL INDIA GAIN FROM THE AGREEMENT?

- The agreement will allow US armed forces to provide advanced financial navigational aids and geospatial intelligence which will improve the military's accuracy

of automated hardware systems and weapons like cruise missiles, ballistic missiles and drones.

- BECA will also help India and US counter the growing Chinese influence in the Indo-Pacific region thereby strengthening the Quad.

► UN CONVENTION FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA

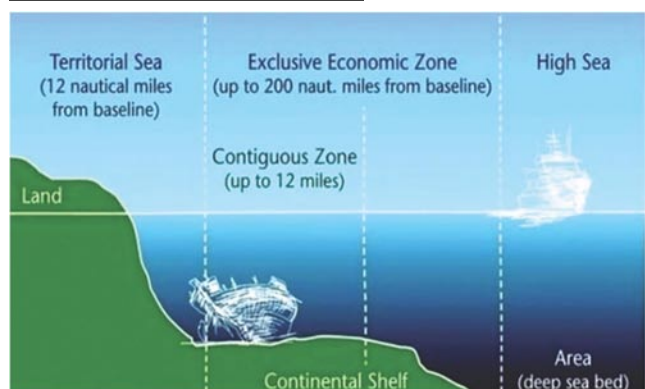
The US Navy announced on April 7 that the USS John Paul Jones from its 7th Fleet had "asserted navigational rights and freedoms approximately 130 nautical miles west of Lakshadweep Islands, inside India's exclusive economic zone, without requesting India's prior consent".

UNCLOS is an acronym for the United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea. The convention is also sometimes referred to as the Law of the Sea Convention or the Law of the Sea treaty.

KEY POINTS

- UNCLOS as the currently prevailing law of the sea is binding completely.
- Even as the name of the nautical law suggests a United Nations' involvement, the UN does not have any major functional role in the working of UNCLOS
- There are 17 parts, 320 articles and nine annexes to UNCLOS
- The law of the sea provides for full money rights to nations for a 200-mile zone by their shoreline. The sea and oceanic bed extending this area is regarded to be an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and any country can use these waters for its economic utilisation
- IMO (International Maritime Organisation) plays a vital role in the operation of UNCLOS. Along with IMO, organisations like International Whaling Commission and the International Seabed Authority are vital parties in the functional areas of the nautical law

WHAT IS EEZ UNDER UNCLOS?



The exclusive economic zone is an area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea, subject to the specific legal regime established in this Part, under which the rights and jurisdiction of the coastal State and the rights and freedoms of other States are governed by the relevant provisions of this Convention.

The exclusive economic zone shall not extend beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

In the exclusive economic zone, the coastal State has:

1. Sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources, whether living or non-living, of the waters superjacent to the seabed and of the seabed and its subsoil, and with regard to other activities for the economic exploitation and exploration of the zone, such as the production of energy from the water, currents and winds.
2. jurisdiction as provided for in the relevant provisions of this Convention about:
 - o the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures.
 - o marine scientific research.
 - o the protection and preservation of the marine environment.
 - o other rights and duties provided for in this Convention.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF OTHER STATES IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE

1. In the exclusive economic zone, all States enjoy the freedoms of navigation and overflight and of the laying of submarine cables and pipelines, and other internationally lawful uses of the sea related to these freedoms, such as those associated with the operation of ships, aircraft and submarine cables and pipelines, and compatible with the other provisions of this Convention.
2. In exercising their rights and performing their duties under this Convention in the exclusive economic zone, States shall have due regard to the rights and duties of the coastal State and shall comply with the laws and regulations adopted by the coastal State in accordance with the provisions of this Convention and other rules of international law in so far as they are not incompatible with this Part.

► GLOBAL GATEWAY PROGRAM

- EU has unveiled its connectivity program known as Golden Gateway for countering Chinese Belt & Road initiative. EU will invest €300 billion (\$340 billion) in this project.
- Aim: Help underpin global recovery by mobilizing investments in digital, clean energy & transport networks, boosting health, education & research systems across the world.
- It aims at creating strong & sustainable links, not dependencies (a reference to Debt Trap of Chinese BRI projects), between Europe & world.

► INDIA-JAPAN SUMMIT

Prime Minister of Japan recently visited India for a summit level meeting with Indian PM. Salient features of agreements passed:

DEFENCE RELATIONS

1. **Acquisition & Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA):** India & Japan signed the Agreement Concerning Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between the Japan Self-Defence Forces and Indian Armed Forces. This agreement will help in enhancing cooperation in the areas of maritime security & maritime domain.
2. **Bilateral and Multilateral Exercises:** Dharma Guardian exercise. The two countries also plan to start bilateral Air Defence exercises. Japan also participates in Malabar exercises and for the first time participated in MILAN exercises.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

1. **Agreement on strengthening bamboo value chain in North-East**

Bamboo is an important natural resource and part of the cultural heritage of both India and Japan.

Aims to evolve North-East Region as a hub of innovation and design for bamboo-based products recreating synergy between premier

India & Japan will collaborate for strengthening the bamboo value chain in a hub and spoke model.

2. **Sustainable Development Initiative for Northeast Region of India**

India and Japan established the **Act East Forum** in 2017. Objectives of Act East Forum are:

Development of North-East Region of India

Promote connectivity within the North-East Region and between North-East Region and SouthEast

Asia.

3. India-Japan Clean Energy Partnership

Both countries will work to ensure secure and stable supply of energy for achieving both goals of sustainable economic growth and addressing climate change. They will cooperate in areas of Electric Vehicles, Energy Conservation in Buildings & Industries, Solar PVs, Wind Energy etc.

4. Specified Skilled Worker (SSW) System

India and Japan entered into an agreement in 2021 regarding India's participation in Specified Skilled Worker program of Japan. SSW examinations have started in India and some skilled workers have already started working in Japan as SSW.

Specified Skilled Worker is a status of residence created to give foreign nationals more opportunities to work in Japan. They need to pass Japanese language proficiency test.

There are two types of Specified Skilled Worker status of residence:

Type (i): They can stay in Japan for a total of 5 years, cannot bring their family to Japan, earn same salary as Japanese workers, receive Japanese language training. Field covered: Nursing care, building cleaning management, construction workers, machine parts & tooling industries, electronics, shipbuilding, automobile repair, transporting baggage, hotel receptionist, farm sector and food service etc.

Type (ii): The type (ii) status of residence requires more specialized skills than type (i). No duration restrictions. They can bring their families to Japan. Managers in construction and ship building sectors.

5. Agreement on Fish Surimi Products: Surimi, as you know is a Japanese term for deboned, good quality fish flesh that has been thoroughly washed and mixed with cryoprotectants for good frozen shelf life. Surimi is a special item exported to countries like Japan where it is used for conversion into value added products.

► ILO CONVENTION 182

First time in ILO's 101-year history a labour standard has been universally ratified.

Convention 182, which was adopted in the 1999 annual international labour conference, prohibits the sexual exploitation of children, trafficking, deployment in

armed conflict and other conditions that compromise their overall well-being.

ARTICLE 3

For the purposes of this Convention, the term **the worst forms of child labour** comprise:

- all forms of slavery or practices like slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, to produce pornography or for pornographic performances.
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties.
- work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

- The Convention complements the ILO's efforts under the **1973 Minimum Age Convention** to prevent the employment of children below a lower age threshold.
- It is a convention adopted in 1973 by the International Labour Organization.
- It requires ratifying states to pursue a national policy designed to ensure the effective abolition of child labour and to raise progressively the minimum age for admission to employment or work.
- Convention C138** replaces several similar ILO conventions in specific fields of labour.
- India has ratified Convention 182 and the instrument prescribing the minimum age of work for children.

► HONG KONG'S BASIC LAW

Chinese parliament has passed new National Security law which, greatly expands Beijing's power in Hong Kong, and has been criticised by the United States as "draconian".

- 1898 Convention for the Extension of Hong Kong Territory leased the New Territories to Britain for 99 years. Under the terms of the treaty, China would regain control of Hong Kong on July 1, 1997.
- As the 99-year treaty was to expire on July 1, 1997, both Britain and China signed a **joint declaration** on the future of Hong Kong in 1984.
- Under the joint declaration, an innovative **"one country, two systems"** was devised, under which Hong Kong reverted to Chinese sovereignty while retaining its political and economic system.

- The **political process in Hong Kong is guided as per the province's Basic Law**, which says that:
- The socialist system and policies shall not be practiced in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the previous capitalist system and way of life shall remain unchanged for 50 years.

Chief Executive is the highest representative leader in Hong Kong, and he shall be selected by election or through consultations held locally and be appointed by the Central People's Government.

► GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR VACCINE AND IMMUNIZATION (GAVI)

India pledged \$15 million to **Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization (GAVI)** at a virtual summit hosted by the British PM Boris Johnson.

GAVI ALLIANCE

- GAVI is a public-private international health partnership that aims to save children's lives and improve people's health by increasing access to vaccines in poor and developing countries.
- It brings together all stakeholders- governments, developing countries, World Bank, UNICEF, WHO, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, international finance and development organizations, and pharmaceutical industry - in one decision making body.
- Started in 2000 at a time when the number of children getting immunized were stagnating or even dwindling in the developing countries.
- India started receiving support for its immunization programme from GAVI in 2002.
- Apart from that, India is the largest supplier of vaccines to GAVI with 55% of its vaccines coming from the country.
- Recently, it also agreed to contribute \$4 million to the alliance over the next four years. This will give it a chance to interact with the donor constituency and discuss relevant issues with them.

► COALITION FOR EPIDEMIC PREPAREDNESS INNOVATIONS

- CEPI was launched in 2017 at World Economic Forum's Davos Summit to develop vaccines and other biologic countermeasures to stop future epidemics so they can be accessible to all the people in need.

- It is a global partnership of private, public, philanthropic and civil society organisations.

APPROACH OF CEPI

- Advance vaccines against known threats through proof-of-concept and safety testing. Establish investigations vaccine stockpiles before epidemics begin-just in case.
- Fund new and innovative platform technologies with potential to accelerate development and manufacture of vaccines against previously unknown pathogens.
- Support & coordinate activities to improve our collective response to epidemics, strengthen capacity in countries at risk, and advance regulatory science that governs products development.

100 DAYS MISSION OF CEPI

CEPI is planning to develop platform which enables the world to be able to respond to the next Disease X with a new vaccine in just 100 days. It is a 5-year plan requiring \$3.5 billion in funds. Recently, UK Government and CEPI hosted the Global Pandemic Preparedness Summit to explore vaccine development for Disease X (unknown infectious disease) within 100 days.

COMPONENTS OF THIS PLAN ARE:

1. **Disease surveillance networks:** International viral surveillance networks will need to be established to alert global authorities to emerging epidemic threats & swiftly share genetic & disease information to trigger vaccine development.
2. **Prototype vaccine library:** A library of prototype vaccines & other biological interventions against viral families known to infect people. This will enable rapid adaptation of these prototype vaccines for clinical testing and evaluation of safety and effectiveness.
3. **Rapid response vaccine technology:** Rapid response technologies must be developed, which can be quickly adapted to develop vaccines against next Disease X.
4. **Boosting vaccine manufacturing:** Global manufacturing capacity needs to be put in place, particularly in lower income countries. New approaches to manufacturing to produce vaccines at speed & scale are needed to stamp put a pandemic threat.
5. **Trial & Regulatory procedures:** A global network of clinical trial sites & a globally agreed set of rules for trials in a pandemic situation needs to be established helping to streamline data sharing & vaccine approvals by regulators.

► NEW ORIENTATION FOR REFORMED MULTILATERAL SYSTEM (NORMS)

In line with its agenda in its 8th term as the non-permanent member of the UNSC, India has reaffirmed its commitment to New Orientation for Reformed Multilateral System or NORMS at the UN Economic and Social Council meeting.

The 5-fold objective of NORMS include

1. Finding new opportunities for progress
2. Effective response to international terrorism
3. Reforming multilateral systems
4. Comprehensive approach to international peace and security
5. Technology with a human touch

► MALABAR NAVAL EXERCISES

*Australia joined Malabar Naval Exercise along with Japan and USA in 2020. All the members of this drill are also the members of the **Quadrilateral grouping** which aims at countering China in the Indian Ocean region.*

ABOUT MALABAR EXERCISE

- The decision was taken by Ministry of Defence to invite Australia for the Malabar Naval Exercises in 2020.
- The Malabar exercises were **first established in 1992 between India and the United States**, but due to tensions arising from India's nuclearization in 1998, it **became an annual feature only in 2002**.
- In 2007, the scope of Malabar was enhanced and a five-nation multilateral naval exercise taking on board three other nations Japan, Australia and Singapore was organised.
- However, this display of multilateral naval cooperation heightened China's anxiety. Both India and the US sought to allay Chinese concerns and the Malabar exercise was made bilateral.
- **After 2007 Australia ceased to participate. Japan joined the Malabar exercises as a permanent member in 2015.**
- With China's growing military strength and its increasing presence in the Indian Ocean, Malabar exercise has assumed greater importance.
- The Malabar exercise enhances India's credibility in the maritime domain and prioritizes collective effort to secure the first of the three global commons (oceans, space, and cyberspace).

► NEPAL POLITICAL MAP

- Nepal's Parliament passed Second Constitutional Amendment wherein it included territories of Indian state of Uttarakhand i.e., Lipulekh, Kalapani & Limpiyadhura into its territory. Nepal has claimed that under treat of Sugauli, it has claim over the area.
- India has outrightly denied this decision of Nepal and claims the area to be its sovereign territory.
- This map came after India commissioned a road via Lipulekh to Mansarovar lake in China.

TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH NEPAL

1. Region of Kalapani and contiguous areas east of the river Kali
2. Region closes to Susta river close to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar border (West Champaran District, Bihar)



TREATY OF SUGAULI (1816)

- It was a treaty signed between East India Company and King of Nepal following the Anglo-Nepalese War. The Nepalese side lost the war and had to cede certain territory. The treaty marked the territorial boundaries of present-day Nepal. Sugauli is in Champaran district of Bihar.
- According to the treaty:
 1. The treaty marked the western boundary of Nepal as the Kali River.
 2. The territory east of Mechi river belongs to British East Company. Hence, Kali River and Mechi river mark the western and eastern boundary of Nepal, respectively.
- However, the treaty does not clearly say the point of origination of Kali River. The Kali River is formed by two tributaries one starting at Limpiyadhura and other at Kali Temple near Kalapani. India accepts the eastern branch as original river of Kali, while Nepal calls for accepting the western branch, which will mean the territory of Kalapani is with Nepal.

► DELHI REGIONAL SECURITY DIALOGUE ON AFGHANISTAN

The Dialogue was held at the level of National Security Advisers / Secretaries of Security Councils and will be chaired by National Security Adviser, Shri Ajit Doval of India.

- The dialogue witnessed an expanded participation of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
- Focused on handling the regional security situation post-Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.
- countries in the region would need to focus on, in the context of Afghanistan: the need for an inclusive government; a zero-tolerance stance about Afghan territory being used by terrorist groups; a strategy to counter trafficking of drugs and arms from Afghanistan; and addressing the increasingly critical humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

► AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN TRANSIT TRADE AGREEMENT

- **Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement** (known as **APTTA**) is a bilateral trade agreement signed in 2010 by Pakistan and Afghanistan that calls for greater facilitation in the movement of goods amongst the two countries.
- The 2010 agreement supersedes the 1965 Afghanistan Transit Trade Agreement, which granted Afghanistan the right to import duty-free goods through Pakistani seaports, mostly notably from Karachi.
- The signed Agreement permits Afghanistan trucks access to Wagah border with India, where Afghan goods will be offloaded onto Indian trucks, but does not permit Indian goods to be loaded onto trucks for transit back to Afghanistan
- The APTTA agreement allows Afghan trucks to transport *exports* to India via Pakistan up to the Wagah crossing point but does not offer Afghanistan the right to *import* Indian goods across Pakistani territory.

► TIR CONVENTION

The first shipment under the United Nations 'Transports Internationaux Routiers' (TIR) convention arrived in India from Afghanistan through Iran's Chabahar Port.

- 'TIR' stands for Transports Internationaux Routiers (International Road Transport) and the TIR Convention facilitates the international carriage of

goods from one or more customs offices of departure to customs offices of destination.

- The Customs Convention on International Transport of Goods under cover of TIR Carnets, 1975 (TIR Convention), is an international transit system under the auspices of **the UN Economic Commission for Europe** for facilitating the seamless movement of goods within and amongst the Parties to the Convention.
- The International Road Transport Union (IRU) administers the TIR international guarantee chain under UN mandate.
- Reciprocal recognition of customs controls is at the heart of the Convention. Thus, customs clearance can take place at internal customs locations thereby avoiding clearances at Border Crossing Points and ports that may often be congested.

INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

- India's acceded to the Customs Convention on International Transport of Goods under cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) in 2017.
- FICCI is the National Issuing and Guaranteeing Association for TIR Carnets in India. It is jointly responsible with NCA for the operation and administration of the TIR system at national level.
- National Customs Authorities implement TIR at national level & can also contribute to amendments to the TIR Convention.

► UNSC 1267 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE

The ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee (1267 Sanctions Committee) was finally able to list Mohammad Masood Azhar Alvi, leader of JeM under the UN Sanctions regime.

- The UN Security Council can take action to maintain or restore international peace and security, and for which it may establish subsidiary bodies as needed for the performance of its functions.
- It is a subsidiary body which is mandated to oversee sanction regimes imposed by UNSC.
- Each regime is administered by a sanctions committee chaired by a non-permanent member of the Security Council.
- The sanctions measures provided to Sanctions Committee are asset freeze, travel ban & an arms embargo.
- These sanction regimes encompass enforcement options that do not involve the use of armed force &

mainly focus on supporting political settlement of conflicts, nuclear non-proliferation & counterterrorism.

ABOUT UNSC 1267 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE

- UNSC resolution 1267 (1999) led to the formation of a Sanctions Committee that overlooked the sanctions imposed upon the Taliban.
- However, 1989 (2011) resolution was adopted whereby the purview of the Committee formed under resolution 1267 was changed to oversee sanctions imposed upon Al-Qaeda and a separate Committee was formed for the Taliban under resolution 1988.
- The Security Council further adopted resolution 2253 (2015) which decided to expand the listing criteria under Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee to include the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).
- Thereafter, it is known as the ISIL (Da'esh) & Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015).

► JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION (JCPOA)

Iran has withdrawn from JCPOA after the killing of General Solemani. Earlier US has unilaterally withdrawn from the agreement and put harsh sanctions on Iran.

- JCPOA is an agreement reached by Iran and the P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) on July 14, 2015.
- The nuclear deal was endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231.
- Iran's compliance with the nuclear-related provisions of the JCPOA is verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) according to certain requirements set forth in the agreement.
- Under the agreement Tehran agreed to limit its nuclear program in return for relief from crippling economic sanctions imposed by the UN, US and the EU.
- It limited the number of centrifuges Iran could run and restricted them to an older, slower model. Iran also reconfigured a heavy-water reactor so it couldn't produce plutonium and agreed to convert its enrichment site at Fordo into a research centre.
- **October 2023, Transition Day:** Eight years after adoption day (or the IAEA reaching its broader conclusion on Iran's nuclear program, whichever is sooner).
- Transition day triggers the UN to lift missile restrictions, Iran to seek ratification of its additional

protocol, the EU to terminate all remaining nuclear sanctions, United States to remove certain entities from the sanctioned list, and the United States to seek legislative termination of certain sanctions.

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

- Iran has two main facilities – Natanz and Fordo, for forming enriched Uranium. Iran will have limited research on enrichment at Natanz till 2024 and no enrichment at Fordo until 2031. Iran cannot form enriched uranium.
- Iran had been building a heavy-water nuclear facility near the town of Arak, wherein spent fuel from a heavy-water reactor contains plutonium suitable for a nuclear weapon. Under the JCPOA, Iran would redesign the reactor so it could not produce any weapons-grade plutonium.



► INSTEX BARTER MECHANISM

Recently, 6 new European countries, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden have decided to join the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) mechanism.

- 'Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX)' is a trade mechanism established by France, Germany and United Kingdom in 2019 to allow European entities to maintain trade with Iran.
- The mechanism has been designed to circumvent U.S. sanctions against trade with Iran by avoiding the use of the dollar. It allows Iran to continue to sell oil and import other products or services in exchange. The mechanism represents continuing commitment of France, Germany and the UK to the JCPOA.

► MEKONG GANGA COOPERATION

- 10th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting adopted the new MGC Plan of Action 2019-2022.
- The Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) is an initiative by six countries – India and five ASEAN countries, namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and

Vietnam for cooperation in tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communications.

- Note that China is not a member although Mekong originates in China and passes through Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.
- Mekong drains into the South China Sea.
- It was launched in 2000 at Vientiane, Lao PDR.
- Both the Ganga and the Mekong are civilizational rivers, and the MGC initiative aims to facilitate closer contacts among the people inhabiting these two major river basins.

► AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION)

It entered into force in May 2019, after the required ratification by African member states. The operational phase of the African Continental Free Trade Area, ACFTA has been launched at the Niamey Summit held in July 2019.

India has extended US\$ 15 million grant assistance to Niger in support of organizing of African Union (AU) summit in Niamey, Niger.

- The 18th session of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2012 adopted a decision to establish a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) by 2017.
- Majority African countries signed the African Continental Free Trade Area and the Protocol establishing the African Economic Community in Kigali, Rwanda in 2018.
- Accra, Ghana serves as the secretariat of the AfCTA.
- It is the largest free trade area in world in terms of participating countries since the formation of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- As of July 2019, 54 of the 55 African Union states had signed the agreement, with Eritrea the only country not signing the agreement. Of these member states 27 have deposited their instrument of ratification.

AFRICAN UNION (AU)

- The earlier international organisation 'Organisation of African Unity' paved the way for the birth of African Union.
- In 1999, the OAU issued the Sirte Declaration calling for the establishment of an African Union.

► CURRENCY SWAP FRAMEWORK

- RBI has revised currency swap arrangement for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries for 2019-2022.
- **India and Japan** signed a bilateral currency swap agreement in 2018.
- A foreign currency swap is an agreement to exchange currency between two foreign parties. The agreement consists of generally swapping principal and interest payments on a loan made in one currency, for principal and interest payments of a loan of equal value in another currency.
- The purpose of engaging in a currency swap is usually to procure loans in foreign currency at more favourable interest rates than if borrowing directly in a foreign market.
- Currency swaps are done to reduce exposure to anticipated fluctuations in exchange rates.
- This facility will enable the agreed amount of foreign capital being available to India for use as and when the need arises. So, there is no immediate cost, when an amount is withdrawn by India.
- It would bring greater stability to foreign exchange & capital markets in India thereby improving market sentiments.

► GLOBAL INTERNET FORUM TO COUNTER TERRORISM (GIFCT)

- The GIFCT is a counter terrorism platform launched in 2011 but it was formally established in July 2017 as a group of companies, dedicated to disrupting terrorist abuse of members' digital platforms.
- The original Forum was led by a rotating chair drawn from the founding four companies—Facebook, Microsoft, Twitter and YouTube—and managed a program of knowledge-sharing, technical collaboration and shared research.
- Its membership is limited to companies operating internet platforms and services.

► ECOSOC CHAMBER

- The Economic and Social Council is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.
- It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways

forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals.

- It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits.
- The UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945 as one of the six main organs of the United Nations.
- It has 54 Members, elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms.
- It serves as the central mechanism for the activities of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies and supervises the subsidiary and expert bodies in the economic, social and environmental fields.
- It has undergone reforms to strengthen the Council and its working methods.

► STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL AGREEMENT

- **India and Saudi Arabia** agreed to further strengthen their existing 'Strategic Partnership' with 'high level monitoring mechanism with the intent to create a Strategic Partnership Council.
- The SPM will be headed by Indian Prime Minister and the Saudi Crown Prince and meet every 2 years. It will coordinate decisions regarding strategically important issues.
- India's first Strategic Partnership Council was formed with Afghanistan under the Strategic Partnership Agreement signed between Hamid Karzai and Manmohan Singh in 2011.
- Its objective was to strengthen Indian cooperation with Afghanistan post-2014 US withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

► LUCKNOW DECLARATION

- The 1st ever India Africa Defence Ministers Conclave was held at Lucknow, India, in conjunction with DEFEXPO INDIA in February 2020, co-organised by the Ministry of Defence.
- This is the first in the series of Pan Africa events at the Ministerial level in the run-up to India Africa Forum Summit IV.
- A Joint Declaration - "Lucknow Declaration", was adopted after conclusion of IADMC 2020 as an outcome document of the Conclave.

► THREE SEAS INITIATIVE

- Three Seas Initiative is a forum of **Central and Eastern European (CEE) states** launched in 2015.
- It was envisioned by Polish President Andrzej Duda and Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović.
- The Initiative seeks to create a new dynamic of cooperation among countries located at the eastern borders of the European Union (EU) to advance economic growth and help bridge the East-West economic gap within the EU through energy, transport, and digital connectivity.
- The Three Seas Initiative has 12 EU member states along a north-south axis from the Baltic Sea to the Adriatic Sea and the Black Sea: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.
- The first summit of the Initiative was held in Dubrovnik in 2016; the second in Warsaw in 2017 which was also attended by the US President Donald Trump; and the third in Bucharest in 2018. China too has participated in these summits as a key partner.

► KARTARPUR CORRIDOR

- India has signed the Agreement with Pakistan on the modalities for operationalisation of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor at Zero Point, International Boundary, Dera Baba Nanak in October 2019.
- With the signing of this Agreement, a formal framework has been laid down.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AGREEMENT

- Indian pilgrims of all faiths and persons of Indian origin can use the corridor.
- The travel will be Visa Free.
- Pilgrims need to carry only a valid passport.
- Persons of Indian Origin need to carry OCI card along with the passport of their country.
- The Corridor is open from dawn to dusk. Pilgrims travelling in the morning will have to return on the same day.
- The Corridor will be operational throughout the year, except on notified days, to be informed in advance.
- Pilgrims will have a choice to visit as individuals or in groups, and to travel on foot.
- India will send the list of pilgrims to Pakistan 10 days ahead of travel date. Confirmation will be sent to pilgrims 4 days before the travel date
- The Pakistan side has assured India to make sufficient provision for 'Langar' and distribution of 'Prasad'.

► ARIA (ASIA REASSURANCE INITIATIVE ACT)

- US has signed into law the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA).
- 'Asia Reassurance Initiative Act' aims at countering the encroaching influence and growing threat from China, and to reinvigorate U.S. leadership.
- ARIA draws attention to U.S. relations with China, India, the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and Northeast Asian allies Japan and South Korea. Additionally, the act addresses U.S. policy toward **North Korea**.
- It also devotes considerable energy to reasserting U.S. support for **Taiwan** and calls on the president of the United States to "encourage the travel of high-level United States officials to Taiwan, in accordance with the Taiwan Travel Act," which was made law in 2018.
- It will establish a multifaceted strategy to increase U.S. security, economic interests and values in the Indo-Pacific region.

► COMPREHENSIVE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

- CCIT is a proposed treaty by India which intends to criminalize all forms of international terrorism.
- It provides a legal framework which makes it binding on all signatories to deny funds and safe havens to terrorist groups.

Major objectives:

- To have a **universal definition of terrorism** that all 193-members of the UNGA will adopt into their own criminal law
- To ban all terror groups and shut down terror camps
- To prosecute all terrorists under special laws
- To make cross-border terrorism an extraditable offence worldwide.
- Despite India's efforts to push a global intergovernmental convention to tackle terrorism, the conclusion and ratification of the CCIT remains deadlocked, mainly due to opposition from three main blocs – the US, the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC), and the Latin American countries.
- All three have objections over the "definition of terrorism" (the most divisive of the issues) and seek exclusions to safeguard their strategic interests.

► TRIANGULAR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN ASIA AND AFRICA

India and USA have signed the First Amendment to the Statement of Guiding Principles (SGP) on Triangular Cooperation for Global Development. It extends the validity of the SGP Agreement up-to 2021.

- Under the Agreement, India and U.S. will continue to offer capacity building assistance to partner countries in multiple sectors.
- The SGP Agreement was signed in November 2014. It underscores the contribution of India-U.S. partnership to global stability and prosperity. It provides a framework for promoting cooperation between the two countries to meet the developmental aspirations of partner countries, particularly in Asia and Africa.

► CAATSA

- It is US federal law. According to this law, countries that have significant defence cooperation with US's adversaries including Russia, Iran and N. Korea are subjected to punitive sanctions by America.
- US has put punitive sanctions against Turkey for purchase of S-400 Triumf.
- However, being a major defence partner of US, India has got a waiver for S-400 purchases.

► BBIN MOTOR VEHICLES AGREEMENT (BBIN MVA)

A meeting of India, Bangladesh, and Nepal on the BBIN MVA was held at New Delhi in March 2022. Bhutan participated in the meeting as an observer. The meeting was held to discuss the Passenger and Cargo Protocols that are essential to operationalise the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) for the Regulation of Passenger, Personal and Cargo Vehicular Traffic between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal, signed on June 15, 2015.

- It was signed by Transport Ministers of the BBIN countries in Thimphu, Bhutan on 15 June 2015.
- Trial runs for cargo vehicles under the MVA were conducted along the Kolkata-Dhaka-Agartala and Delhi-Kolkata-Dhaka routes in the past. The trials were successful in establishing the Agreement's economic benefits.
- **Bangladesh, India, and Nepal have already ratified the MVA.**

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has been providing technical, advisory & financial support to BBIN MVA initiative as part of its South Asia Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) program.

► IMPORTANT AGREEMENTS

Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS)	India and Russia
BTIA	India & UK trade FTA
Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)	India-EU
IndAus ECTA	FTA between India & Australia

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

► UNITED NATIONS

UN celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2020. In this background let us understand some basic facts about the UN.

UN CHARTER

- The Charter of the United Nations is the founding document of the United Nations.
- It was signed on 26 June 1945, in San Francisco, at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on International Organization and came into force on 24 October 1945.
- UN can act on a wide variety of issues due to its unique international character & powers vested in its Charter, which is considered an international treaty.
- As such, the **UN Charter is an instrument of international law, and UN Member States are bound by it.**
- UN Charter codifies major principles of international relations, from sovereign equality of States to prohibition of use of force in international relations.
- International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of UN, functions in accordance with the Statute of the International Court of Justice, which is annexed to the UN Charter, and forms an integral part of it.

ORGANS OF UN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- Main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN.
- All 193 Member States of the UN are represented in the General Assembly, **making it the only UN body with universal representation.**
- Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, **require a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly.** Decisions on other questions are **by simple majority.**

UN SECURITY COUNCIL

- The Security Council has primary responsibility, under the UN Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- It has 15 Members (5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members). Each Member has one vote.

Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.

- In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.
- All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council.
- While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, **only the Security Council has the power to make decisions** that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

ARTICLE 27 OF THE UN CHARTER STATES THAT

- Each member of the Security Council **shall have one vote.**
- Decisions of the Security Council on procedural matters **shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members.**
- Decisions of the Security Council on all other matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members.
- **Right to Veto** - US, China, France, UK and Russia have been granted the Right to Veto.
- If any one of the five permanent members cast a **negative vote** in the 15-member Security Council, the resolution or decision would not be approved.
- All five permanent members have exercised the right of veto at one time or another.
- If a permanent member does not fully agree with a proposed resolution but **does not wish to cast a veto, it may choose to abstain**, thus allowing the resolution to be adopted if it obtains the required number of nine favourable votes.

NON-PERMANENT SEATS AT THE UNSC

- **Tenure of Non-permanent members:** Elected for **two-year terms** — Every year, General Assembly elects five non-permanent members out of total 10.
- **Distribution of seats among the regions of the world:** five seats for African and Asian countries; one for Eastern European countries; two for Latin American and Caribbean countries; and two for Western European and Other Countries.
- Within the Five seats for Africa and Asia, **three are for Africa and two for Asia.**

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- **The current non-permanent members of the Security Council** - Belgium, Dominican Republic, Germany, Indonesia, and South Africa, all whose terms end this year; and Estonia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, and Vietnam, whose terms end in 2021.
- **India** begins its term in the beginning of 2021 and will hold the position until the end of 2022.
- India has earlier been a non-permanent member of the Security Council in 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92 and 2011-12.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

- It is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals.
- It serves as the central mechanism for activities of the UN system and its specialized agencies in the economic, social and environmental fields, supervising subsidiary and expert bodies.
- It has 54 Members, elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

- It was established in 1945 by the UN Charter to provide international supervision for 11 Trust Territories that had been placed under the administration of seven Member States and ensure that adequate steps were taken to prepare the Territories for self-government and independence.
- By 1994, all Trust Territories had attained self-government or independence.
- The Trusteeship Council suspended operation on 1 November 1994.

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

COMPARISON OF ICC AND ICJ COVERED ELSEWHERE

SECRETARIAT

It comprises the Secretary-General and international UN staff members who conduct the day-to-day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly and the Organization's other principal bodies.

UN SYSTEM

- UN system, in addition to UN itself, comprises many funds, programs & specialized agencies, each having their own area of work, leadership & budget.

- The programmes and funds are financed through voluntary rather than assessed contributions.
- The Specialized Agencies are independent international organizations funded by both voluntary and assessed contributions.
- The UN coordinates its work with these separate UN system entities, which cooperate with the Organization to help it achieve its goals.

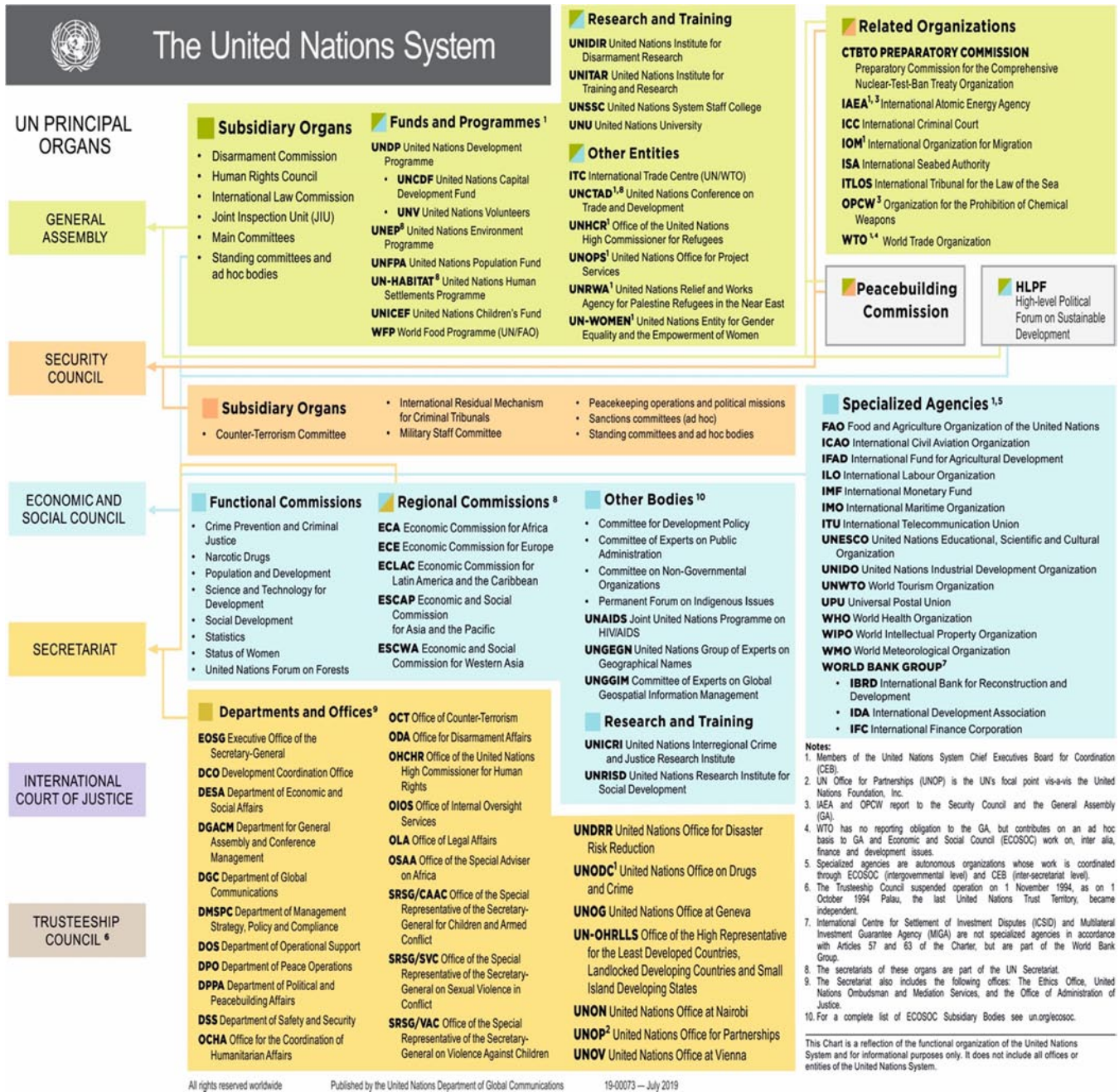
UN SPECIALISED AGENCIES

The UN specialized agencies are autonomous international organizations working with the United Nations. All were brought into relationship with the UN through negotiated agreements.

There are 17 Specialized Agencies:

- **FAO:** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- **ICAO:** International Civil Aviation Organization
- **IFAD:** International Fund for Agricultural Development
- **ILO:** International Labour Organization
- **IMF:** International Monetary Fund
- **IMO:** International Maritime Organization
- **ITU:** International Telecommunication Union
- **UNESCO:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- **UNIDO:** United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- **UNWTO:** World Tourism Organization
- **UPU:** Universal Postal Union
- **WHO:** World Health Organization
- **WIPO:** World Intellectual Property Organization
- **WMO:** World Meteorological Organization
- **World Bank Group**
 - **IBRD:** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - **IDA:** International Development Association
 - **IFC:** International Finance Corporation

(International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) are not specialized agencies but are part of the World Bank Group.)



► **OUR COMMON AGENDA**

- To mark the 75th Anniversary of UN, Member States came together to recognise that our challenges are interconnected and can only be addressed through stronger international cooperation and reinvigorated multilateralism with the United Nations at the Centre of our efforts.
- Global leaders pledged to strengthen global governance for the sake of present and coming generations and asked the Secretary General to

prepare a report with recommendations to advance our common agenda and respond to current and future challenges.

- UN Secretary General prepared a comprehensive report titled outlining 12 comprehensive action areas named 'Our Common Agenda'.
- The important proposals in the report are given below. The Secretary General proposed a **Summit of the Future** to forge a new global consensus on what our future should look like and what we can do to secure it.

KEY PROPOSALS ACROSS THE 12 COMMITMENTS FROM

the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations



All proposed actions are in line with and designed to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



1. Leave no one behind

- Renewed social contract anchored in human rights
- New era for **universal social protection**, including health care and basic income security, reaching the 4 billion unprotected
- Reinforce **adequate housing, education and lifelong learning and decent work**
- **Digital inclusivity**
- **World Social Summit in 2025**
- Identify **complementary measures to GDP**



2. Protect our planet

- Leaders meeting ahead of the global stocktaking in 2023
- Commit to the 1.5-degree Celsius goal and **net zero emissions by 2050 or sooner**
- Declarations of **climate emergency and right to a healthy environment**
- **Package of support to developing countries**
- Measures for adaptation and resilience
- No new coal after 2021 and phasing out fossil fuel subsidies
- **Account for the environment in economic models**, carbon pricing mechanisms and credible commitments by financial actors
- **Post-2020 biodiversity framework**
- **Transforming food systems** for sustainability, nutrition and fairness
- Action by the General Assembly on **territorial threats of climate change** and to prevent, protect and resolve situations of environmental displacement



3. Promote peace and prevent conflicts

- **New agenda for peace to:**
 - Reduce strategic risks (nuclear weapons, cyberwarfare, autonomous weapons)
 - Strengthen international foresight
 - Reshape responses to all forms of violence
 - Invest in prevention and peacebuilding, including Peacebuilding Fund and Peacebuilding Commission
 - Support regional prevention
 - Put women and girls at the centre of security policy
- **Peaceful, secure and sustainable use of outer space**, including through a multi-stakeholder dialogue on outer space



4. Abide by international law and ensure justice

- Human rights as a **problem-solving** measure, including by comprehensive anti-discrimination laws and promoting participation
- Application of **human rights** online and to frontier issues and new technologies
- Universal access to the Internet as a human right
- Human rights mechanisms on a more sustainable financial footing
- **Legal identity for all**, end to statelessness and protection of internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants
- New vision for the **rule of law**
- **Global road map** for the development and effective implementation of international law



5. Place women and girls at the centre

- Repeal of gender-discriminatory laws
- Promote gender parity, including through quotas and **special measures**
- Facilitate women's economic inclusion, including investment in the care economy and support for women entrepreneurs
- Include voices of **younger women**
- Eradication of violence against women and girls, including through an **emergency response plan**



6. Build trust

- **Global code of conduct that promotes integrity in public information**
- Improve people's experiences with **public institutions and basic services**
- Inclusive **national listening and "envisioning the future" exercises**
- Action to tackle **corruption** in line with the United Nations Convention against Corruption
- Reformed **international tax system**
- **Joint structure on financial integrity and tackling illicit financial flows**



7. Improve digital cooperation

- **Global Digital Compact** to:
 - Connect all people to the Internet, including all schools
 - Avoid Internet fragmentation
 - Protect data
 - Apply human rights online
 - Introduce accountability criteria for discrimination and misleading content
 - Promote regulation of artificial intelligence
 - Digital commons as a global public good



8. Upgrade the United Nations

- **High-level Advisory Board** led by former Heads of State and Government on improved governance of global public goods
- System-wide policy that **puts people at the centre**, taking into account age, gender and diversity
- More listening, participation and consultation (including digitally), building on the seventy-fifth anniversary declaration and Our Common Agenda
- **Gender parity** within the United Nations system by 2028
- Re-establish the Secretary-General's **Scientific Advisory Board**
- "Quintet of change" for United Nations 2.0, including innovation, data, strategic foresight, results orientation and behavioural science



9. Ensure sustainable financing

- **Biennial Summit between the Group of 20, the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General and the heads of international financial institutions** for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient global economy including to:
 - Support a **Sustainable Development Goal investment boost**, including through a **last-mile alliance** to reach those furthest behind
 - Provide more flexible research and development incentives
 - Resolve **weaknesses in the debt architecture**
- Fairer and more resilient **multilateral trading system**, including a reinvigorated WTO
- New business models
- Improve the **United Nations budget process**



10. Boost partnerships

- Annual meetings between the United Nations and all heads of **regional organizations**
- **Stronger** engagement between the United Nations system, international financial institutions and regional development banks
- More systematic engagement with **parliaments, subnational authorities and the private sector**
- **Civil society focal points** in all United Nations entities
- United Nations Office for Partnerships to **consolidate access and inclusion**, including accessibility online



11. Listen to and work with youth

Youth

- **Remove barriers to political participation** and measure progress through a "youth in politics" index
- **United Nations Youth Office**
- Transforming Education Summit in 2022
- **Recovery barometer** to track career paths and labour market outcomes for youth
- **High-ambition coalition** to promote green and digital-economy job creation

Future generations

- Summit of the Future in 2023
- **Ensure long-term thinking**, including through a United Nations **Futures Lab**
- **Represent succeeding generations**, including through a **repurposed Trusteeship Council**, a **Declaration on Future Generations**, and a **United Nations Special Envoy for Future Generations**



12. Be prepared

- **Emergency Platform** to be convened in response to complex global crises
- **Strategic Foresight and Global Risk Report** by the United Nations every five years
- **On global public health:**
 - **Global vaccination plan**
 - Empowered WHO
 - Stronger global health security and preparedness
 - Accelerate product development and access to health technologies in low- and middle-income countries
 - **Universal health coverage** and addressing determinants of health

HIGH LEVEL ADVISORY BOARD ON EFFECTIVE MULTILATERALISM

UN Secretary General has convened this body to make concrete suggestions for more effective multilateral arrangements across a range of key global issues.

These non-binding recommendations would inform deliberations by Member States at the proposed Summit of the Future, proposed by UN Secretary General's report 'Our Common Agenda'.

Our Common Agenda calls for stronger governance of key issues of global concern.

The board will be supported by Centre for Policy Research of the United Nations University in coordination with Executive Office of the Secretary General.

Members: 12 eminent persons from across the globe are members of this body, including two co-chairs of this body - Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (ex-President of Liberia) & Stefan Lofven (ex-Prime Minister of Sweden). From India, Jayati Ghosh is a member of this body.

► UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Elections were held for the cohort of member nations who will serve for the next three years (2021-23) in the UN Human Rights Council.

- The council is the central structure in the global human rights architecture, a political body with representatives drawn from General Assembly.
- The UNHRC replaced the UN Human Rights Commission in 2006.

- The UNHRC has **47 members serving at any time** with elections held to fill up seats every year, based on allocations to regions across the world to ensure geographical representation.
- There is **no special privilege for more developed Western countries**, as is the case with other multilateral institutions such as IMF or World Bank.
- It passes **non-binding resolutions** on human rights issues, besides overseeing expert investigation of violations in specific countries.
- The UNHRC holds regular sessions three times a year, in March, June, and September.
- **Universal Periodic Review**: The Universal periodic review (UPR) mechanism reviews all 192 UN member states every four years to "ensure universality of coverage and equal treatment of all Member States. "It provides opportunities to member states to declare what actions they have taken to improve human rights and to fulfil their obligations.
- **Special Procedure**: The special procedures of the Human Rights Council are independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective. The system of Special Procedures is a central element of the United Nations human rights machinery and covers all human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political, and social.
- **Special Rapporteur**: The titles Special Rapporteur, Independent Expert, and Working Group Member are given to individuals working on behalf of the United Nations (UN) within the scope of "special procedure" mechanisms.

The mechanism of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) was incorporated into the functioning to give teeth to the organisation. The UPR, which has a national report from the state under review plus a compilation of UN information prepared by the Office of UN High Commission for Human Rights, also allows for a summary of information from civil society actors.

OFFICE OF UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR)

The OHCHR at the United Nations provides the Special Rapporteurs with the personnel and logistical assistance necessary for them to carry out their mandates outlined in specific U.N. resolutions.

ABOUT OHCHR

- The commissioner is the UN official with principal responsibility for promoting and protecting human rights.

- OHCHR is part of the UN Secretariat and supports the High Commissioner in the implementation of his/her mandate.
- OHCHR has lead responsibility for the promotion and protection of human rights, and for implementing the human rights program within the UN.
- It serves as the secretariat of both Charter-based bodies such as the Human Rights Council, and treaty-based bodies – i.e., the bodies established under the various international human rights conventions.

► UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

UN World Food Programme won the Nobel Peace prize for 2020 for its efforts to combat hunger around the world and improve conditions for peace in areas affected by conflicts.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

- The World Food Programme (WFP) is the leading humanitarian organization saving lives and changing lives, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience.
- In 2015 the global community adopted the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development to improve people's lives **by 2030**. Goal 2 – Zero Hunger – pledges to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- For its efforts to combat hunger, bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict, WFP was awarded **Nobel Peace Prize in 2020**.
- **Funded entirely by voluntary donations**
- It works closely with its two sister organizations, the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations** and the **International Fund for Agricultural Development**.

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

- IFAD is an international financial institution and **specialized United Nations agency**.
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) invests in rural people, empowering them to increase their food security, improve the nutrition of their families and increase their incomes. We help them build resilience, expand their businesses and take charge of their own development.

- IFAD is the only multilateral development institution that focuses exclusively on transforming rural economies and food systems

► AFRICA 50

- AFRICA50 is an infrastructure investment platform that contributes to Africa's economic growth by developing and investing in bankable infrastructure projects
- It has currently 31 shareholders, comprised of 28 African countries, African Development Bank, Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) and Bank Al-Maghrib.
- PowerGrid Corporation of India has signed a Joint Development Agreement with Africa 50 to develop the Kenya Transmission Project on a public-private partnership basis.

► GLOBAL HEALTH FOR PEACE INITIATIVE (GHPI)

It is an initiative that promotes and supports the development of health programs that consider peace and conflict dynamics, especially in Fragile, Conflict-affected Vulnerable (FCV) countries, and, where possible, that contribute to peace outcomes.

It aims to position **health as an influencer of peace** and **WHO as a Sustaining Peace Actor** through health interventions that are conflict-sensitive, deliver peace outcomes in conflict-affected areas, and which contribute to WHO's Triple Billion Goals.

TRIPLE BILLION GOALS

- One billion more people benefitting from Universal Health Coverage.
- One billion more people enjoying better Health and Well-being.
- One billion more people better protected from Health Emergencies.

STEP-BY-STEP

- Analyse conflict(s) and peace factors, actors and dynamics.
- Analyse how they interact with our interventions.
- Do no harm: Design interventions that are sensitive to conflict dynamics, drivers and actors (conflict-sensitivity)
- Seek ways to contribute to peace outcomes while pursuing health objectives (peace-responsiveness).

► FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.
- The inter-governmental body sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities and the harm they cause to society.
- As a policy-making body, the FATF works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.
- With more than 200 countries and jurisdictions committed to implementing them. The FATF has developed the **FATF Recommendations, or FATF Standards**, which ensure a coordinated global response to prevent organised **crime, corruption and terrorism**.
- They help authorities go after the money of criminals dealing in illegal drugs, human trafficking and other crimes.
- The FATF **also works to stop funding for weapons of mass destruction**.
- The FATF reviews **money laundering and terrorist financing techniques** and continuously strengthens its standards to address new risks, such as the regulation of virtual assets, which have spread as **cryptocurrencies gain popularity**.
- The FATF monitors countries to ensure they implement the FATF Standards fully and effectively and holds countries to account that do not comply.
- **FATF does not address at all issues related to low tax jurisdiction or tax competition**.
- The FATF mandate **focuses only on the fight against laundering** of proceeds of crimes and the financing of terrorism.

FATF MEMBERS

There are currently 39 members of the FATF: 37 jurisdictions and 2 regional organisations (**the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Commission**). These 39 Members are at the core of global efforts to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

India, China, Israel, UK and USA are the members, while Pakistan, North Korea, Iran are not the members.

FATF '40+9'

- FATF issues a report containing a set of Forty Recommendations, which are intended to provide a comprehensive plan of action needed to fight against money laundering.
- In 2001, the development of standards in the fight against terrorist financing was added to the mission

of the FATF thereby further adding 9 Special Recommendations.

- FATF has formed 40 recommendations against money laundering and 9 special recommendations against terrorist financing, which forms the commonly known '40+9' FATF Standards.

MUTUAL EVALUATIONS

- The FATF conducts peer reviews of each member to assess levels of implementation of the FATF Recommendations.
- It provides an in-depth description and analysis of each country's system for preventing criminal abuse of the financial system.

FATF LISTINGS

- FATF issues a list of '**Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories**' (NCCTs), commonly called the **FATF Blacklist**.
- These countries or territories are uncooperative in international efforts against money laundering and terrorism financing.
- The **grey list** is a list of countries or territories with strategic anti-money laundering/countering the financing of terrorism deficiencies for which they have developed an action plan with the FATF.

► 13TH BRICS SUMMIT

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired the 13th BRICS Summit virtually today

- The theme of the Summit, chosen by India, was, **BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus**.

ABOUT BRICS

- The members of BRICS are Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- The grouping was formalized with the first meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers in 2006. The BRIC's first summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia in 2009.
- A decision to expand BRIC into BRICS with the inclusion of South Africa was taken at BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting in 2010. South Africa became member of expanded BRICS in the 3rd Summit at Sanya, China in 2011.

INDIA SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT IN BRICS

- The BRICS Summit in India was the 8th BRICS Summit that was held in Goa in 2016.
- Establishment of the Coordination Centre of BRICS Agriculture Research Platform, a virtual network in India.

- It intends for intra-BRICS collaboration under the Basic Agriculture Information Exchange System (BAIES). It was decided during the 9th BRICS Summit in Xiamen, China in 2017.

'BRICS PLUS'

- 'BRICS Plus' was first mooted by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in March 2017 with the objective of widening the "circle of friends" of BRICS that can bring unity among developing countries and enhance South-South cooperation.
- The initiative is aimed at upping the outreach activities of the BRICS countries with the Global South and building wider partnership with emerging markets and developing countries (EMDCs).
- 'BRICS Plus' is in line with the tradition of inviting friends and partners of the host country to the BRICS Summit.
- Russia invited the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and Eurasian Economic Union countries for the 2015 Ufa Summit. India invited BIMSTEC countries for the 2016 Goa Summit. China invited Egypt, Guinea, Tajikistan, Mexico and Thailand as guests in the 2017 Xiamen Summit. South Africa hosted the BRICS-Africa Outreach during the 2018 Johannesburg Summit.

► SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION (SCO)

Prime Minister participated virtually in the 21st Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), and through video-message in the Joint SCO-CSTO Outreach Session on Afghanistan.

- It is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation and was formed in 2001.
- **Eight countries** are currently SCO full members: **Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and India and Pakistan** recently gained full members in 2017.
- SCO decided to admit India & Pakistan in **Ufa summit of 2015**.
- India participated for the first time as a full member at the recently held 18th Qingdao Summit of SCO in China that was held in 2018.
- **SCO RATS**: Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of SCO is a permanent body based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The objective of RATS is based upon the Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism. RATS possess information on terrorist organisations and terrorists.

- China is the largest economic power in SCO. India is now the 2nd largest economic power in SCO.
- The military exercise 'Peace Mission 2018' was conducted in Russia and became the 1st platform after UN Peace Mission Peace Keeping Missions for joint military engagement between India and Pakistan.
- The military exercise called 'Tsentr (Centre) 2019' was conducted by Russia at Orenburg, where all SCO members participated
- The Wonders of SCO include archaeological and historical monuments of SCO. It includes Statue of Unity (India), Daming Palace (China), Navruz Palace (Tajikistan), Mughals Heritage (Pakistan), Tamgaly Gorge (Kazakhstan), Po-i-Kalan Complex (Uzbekistan), The Golden Ring of Russia and Lahore, the Mughals heritage (Pakistan).

► INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)

MANDATE

- It is a permanent international court established to investigate, prosecute and try individuals accused of **genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression**.
- It was established by the treaty known as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The ICC prosecutes individuals, not groups or States.
- It has no retrospective jurisdiction – only crimes committed after Rome Statute came into force i.e., 1st July 2002 will be under its purview.

ICC & UN

ICC is neither an office nor an agency of the United Nations, yet the Rome Statute allows the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to refer specific situations to the Court that are outside the jurisdiction of ICC.

JURISDICTION OF ICC

- A State that is member to the Rome Statute is placed within the jurisdiction of the ICC. It may exercise its jurisdiction in situations where the alleged perpetrator is a national of a member State or when the crime was committed in the territory of a member State.
- A State not party to the Statute may decide to accept the jurisdiction of the ICC. Moreover, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) can also refer a situation to the ICC.

ICC AND NATIONAL JUDICIAL SYSTEM

The ICC does not replace national criminal justice systems and primary priority is given to national judicial system for criminal prosecution of the perpetrators.

INDIA AND ICC

- **India is not a party to Rome Statute along with US and China.** India considers the inherent jurisdiction of the ICC as a violation of a nation's sovereignty. Therefore, India has insisted on having an 'opt-in' provision whereby a country could accept the jurisdiction of the ICC by declaration, specified to an issue and time period.
- to close the Turkish Straits to the passage of Russian warships under Montreux Convention.

► ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

OIC meeting 2022 was held in Pakistan in the context of the Ukraine Russia war

India was invited as the guest of honour by UAE, the host of 46th Session of the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers in Abu Dhabi, UAE in 2019.

- OIC was established in a summit which took place in Rabat, Morocco in 1969 and in 1970 it was decided to establish a permanent secretariat in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. **India is not a member.**
- It endeavors to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace.
- Second largest inter-governmental organization after UN with a membership of 57 states spread over four continents. It has its main membership from Muslim-majority countries; however, several non-Muslim majority countries are also provided membership to OIC for various geo-political reasons under the earlier 1972 Charter.
- OIC Charter adopted in 2008 limits membership to states that are member of the United Nations, having Muslim majority with approval by consensus required.

► INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ)

ICJ gave a provisional measure order asking Russia to stop its military operation of Ukraine

CONTEXT

The order was in response to a Ukrainian appeal to the court on 26 February, asking for an urgent ruling on Russia's unsupported claims that Ukrainian forces were

committing genocide in Russian-backed enclaves in Luhansk and Donetsk, regions in eastern Ukraine, as a justification for the attack.

JURISDICTION

- Article 36(1) of the Statute of the ICJ provides that the ICJ shall have jurisdiction in all matters relating to the UN Charter, or other treaties or conventions in force.
- The **Genocide Convention 1948** under Article IX provides that disputes between states relating to the interpretation, application or fulfilment of the Genocide Convention, as well as those relating to the responsibility of a state for genocide shall be submitted to the ICJ **at the request of any of the parties to the dispute.**

PROVISIONAL MEASURES

- The Statute of the International Court of Justice, under Article 41 empowers the ICJ to indicate provisional measures in any case before it to preserve the rights of the parties involved. When the ICJ indicates such provisional measures, the parties to the dispute and the UN Security Council must be notified.
- Provisional measures are binding in character and create international legal obligations.

MANDATE

- It is the **principal judicial organ** of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter, signed in 1945.
- It is situated in the Peace Palace Hague, Netherlands.
- **It has two primary functions:** to settle legal disputes submitted by States in accordance with established international laws, and to act as an advisory board on issues submitted to it by authorized international organizations.

MEMBERS

- It is composed of 15 judges who are elected for the term of nine years, by the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council. The elected judges form part of the list of people nominated by the national groups in the Permanent Court of Arbitration.
- No two judges can be nationals of the same country. The judges in ICJ are chosen to represent all geographic regions of the world- an informal understanding between the nations.

JURISDICTION

- Only UN member States are eligible to appear before the Court in contentious cases.

- It cannot deal with a dispute of its own motion. It is not permitted, under its Statute, to investigate and rule on acts of sovereign States as it chooses. The States concerned must accept the jurisdiction and must provide consent to the Court's considering the dispute in question.
- The Court has no jurisdiction to deal with applications from individuals, non-governmental organizations, corporations or any other private entity, and neither provides them with legal counselling.
- Judgments delivered by the Court are binding upon the parties concerned; are final and without appeal.

Comparison between ICJ AND ICC		
FEATURE	ICI	ICC
Year Court Established	1946	2002
languages	English, French	English, French
UN-relationship	Official court of the O.N., commonly referred to as the World Court.	Independent. May receive case referrals from the UN Security Council. Can initiate prosecutions without UN action or referral.
Location	The Hague, The Netherlands	The Hague, The Netherlands
Jurisdiction	U.N. member-states (i.e., national governments)	individuals

► INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA (ITLOS)

It is an independent judicial body established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). It is seated in Hamburg, Germany.

- The Convention establishes a comprehensive legal framework to regulate all ocean space, its uses and ITLoS seeks to adjudicate disputes arising out of the interpretation and application of the convention resources.
- It contains provisions relating to territorial sea and its contiguous zone, continental shelf, Exclusive economic zone, High seas, protection and preservation of the marine environment, exploration for and exploitation of the resources of the seabed

and ocean floor and subsoil which is beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, among other.

- Dr Neeru Chadha became the first Indian woman to be a judge at the International Tribunal Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in 2017.
- **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).**
 - The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is an international treaty which was adopted and signed in 1982.
 - The Convention has created three new institutions on the international scene:
 - the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea,
 - the International Seabed Authority,
 - the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

► ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION & DEVELOPMENT

India has ratified Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures (MLI) to prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

The multilateral convention is an outcome of the OECD/G20 project to tackle base erosion and profit shifting, which is resorted to by multinational corporations through tax planning strategies by exploiting gaps and mismatches in tax rules.

ABOUT OECD

- It is an international organisation that discuss and develop economic and social policy. OECD is a group of 37 democratic countries that support free-market economies.
- It was established in 1961, by 18 European nations plus the United States and Canada.
- It has expanded over time to include members from South America and the Asia-Pacific region. It includes most of the highly developed economies.
- India is not a member of OECD.
- India has decided against becoming a member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for now, but it is talking to the Paris-based body for expanding sectoral engagement.
- At present, India is only a member of various committees of this organisation.

INDIA AND OECD

- OECD has invited India to join Organisation's Development Centre. The Centre, a semi-independent body within the OECD, works to foster policy dialogue and understanding between OECD countries and the developing world.
- Development Centre's Governing Board comprises 55 countries, of which 26 are OECD members and 29 are developing and emerging economies. India is one of the non-members developing countries which is member of Development Centre's Governing Board.

OECD STR INDEX (SERVICES TRADE RESTRICTIVENESS INDEX)

- It was begun in 2014 by OECD. Its purpose is to rank countries based on their services trade policies. India has found problems with the current method under which OECD ranks the country.
- The STR Index shows Indian services sector as highly restrictive in areas such as FDI.

► INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION (ICAO)

- It is a UN specialized agency, established by States in 1944 to manage the administration and governance of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (**Chicago Convention**).
- It is headquartered in Quartier International of Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- ICAO works with the Convention's 193 Member States and industry groups to reach consensus on international civil aviation Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and policies in support of a safe, efficient, secure, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible civil aviation sector.

► INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)

- UN specialized agency with responsibility for safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships.
- As part of the UN family, IMO is actively working towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the associated SDGs.
- IMO's work supports UN SDGs. While ocean's goal, SDG 14, is central to IMO, aspects of Organization's work can be linked to all individual SDGs.

► OPEC AND OPEC+

Ecuador has withdrawn from OPEC from 1 January 2020. The country stated its internal fiscal problems as the reason for the withdrawal from the group.

ABOUT ORGANIZATION OF THE PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OPEC)

- OPEC is a permanent intergovernmental organization of 13 oil-exporting developing nations that coordinates and unifies the petroleum policies of its Member Countries.
- It was created at the Baghdad Conference in 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- **13 Members:** Algeria, Angola, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and United Arab Emirates.
- OPEC's objective is to co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries, to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers; an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations; and a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry.
- OPEC has its headquarters at **Vienna, Austria**.

OPEC+

- OPEC+ is a group of OPEC countries and its allies.
- It also includes **non-OPEC oil producing countries**. They are Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, Sudan and South Sudan.

► INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

- Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.
- It works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.
- **India is a member of this organization.**
- It releases **World Migration Report**.

► UNHCR: 1951 REFUGEE CONVENTION

- It is convention relating to the status of refugees.

- It defines the term '**refugee**' and outlines the rights of the displaced, as well as the legal obligations of States to protect them.
- It is the key legal document that forms the basis of international law regulating the rights and duties of refugees and the host countries. It is ratified by 145 countries.
- It provides for the core **principle of non-refoulement**, which asserts that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom. This now considered a rule of customary international law.

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

- It serves as the guardian of the **1951 convention** and its 1967 protocol. According to the legislation, States are expected to cooperate with UNHCR in ensuring that the rights of refugees are respected and protected.
- India has not ratified the 1951 Refugee convention and its protocol.

NEW YORK DECLARATION

All the 193 members of the UN adopted a resolution called New York Declaration in 2016 that recommended two global compacts: a global compact on refugees and a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES

- **Global Compact on Refugees is a non-binding framework** for predictable & equitable responsibility-sharing, recognizing that a sustainable solution to refugee situations cannot be achieved without international cooperation. It was concluded in 2018.
- It provides a blueprint for governments, international organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure that host communities get the support they need and that refugees can lead productive lives.

GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION

- The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, a **non-binding agreement for the better management of migration**, adopted in December 2018.
- It is the first inter-governmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner.
- The major goal of the compact is to assist nation states to frame well-managed migration policies.
- Further, it aims to promote efforts to strengthen regular migration pathways and protect the human rights of migrants.

► DEVELOPMENT LEVEL

CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES

President Trump has claimed that the status of 'developing country' which is given by WTO rules, is being misused by several countries.

India and China classify themselves as developing countries whereby this means that they are growing economies. But according to Donald Trump, Indian and Chinese economy has already grown, and should not be classified as growing economy or as developing countries under WTO rules.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT WTO

- There are no WTO definitions of "developed" and "developing" countries.
- Members announce for themselves whether they are "developed" or "developing" countries. However, other members can challenge the decision of a member to make use of provisions available to developing countries.

LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCS)

- These are the low-income countries who are facing severe structural limitation to sustainable development. They have low levels of human assets and are extremely vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks.
- Currently there are 47 countries designated as LDCs by United Nations (UN).
- The LDC status is reviewed every three years by Committee for Development (CDP), subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

CDP USES THREE CRITERIA TO IDENTIFY LDCS

1. Gross Nation Income (GNI) per capita
2. Human Assets Index (HAI)
3. Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI)

► INDO-PACIFIC PARKS

PARTNERSHIP (I3P INITIATIVE)

- India and France have together launched this initiative to build capacities in the Indo-Pacific region in terms of **sustainable management of protected areas**, by gathering and sharing experiences and expertise that exist in the region.
- The partnership aims to bring together key Indo-Pacific public & private natural park managers to unlock knowledge, to share best practices and highlight innovative experiences which can further ensure a more sustainable, inclusive and efficient natural resources preservation.

COMPONENTS

- **Biodiversity Conservation:** Sharing of tools and techniques for diagnosis & inventory of endangered species + strategies for preservation & restoration + anti-poaching or illegal logging efforts (with special focus on high level trafficking)
- **Sustainable tourism development & reinforcement of local economic activities:** Local designs of sustainable touristic itineraries, building of a sustainable tourism development strategy, building of basic visitor management strategy & activities of communication and awareness raising.
- **Governance reinforcement:** Lead to the definition of local regulation/charter and implementation of an integrated management platform for territorial monitoring of natural disasters, fires or tourist flows.

STRUCTURE

- **Phase I:** Focus on terrestrial biodiversity, mobilising Indian & French support with participation of the parks of the Indo-Pacific region with a set of activities focused on governance of parks, sustainable management of biodiversity and tourism.
- **Phase II:** Include marine biodiversity, involving interested parks in the Indo-Pacific region, based on results of first phase.
- All like-minded countries in the Indo-Pacific region wishing to contribute to these commitments are invited to join this initiative.

INDIA-FRANCE ROADMAP ON BLUE ECONOMY AND OCEAN GOVERNANCE

India & France will organise an annual bilateral dialogue on blue economy. The dialogue will play a driving force in the formulation, organisation and follow-up of cooperation projects in four pillars of: Institutional; Economic; Infrastructure; Science and Academic.

► SAARC

The External Affairs Minister of the Republic of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar, participated in the annual Informal Meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers on 24th September 2020. The meeting, chaired by Nepal, was held in virtual mode and saw participation of all SAARC member states.

- SAARC was established with the signing of the **SAARC Charter** in Dhaka on 8 December 1985.
- **8 member States:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- The Secretariat is in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.

SAARC EMERGENCY FUND

India has asked the leaders of the SAARC countries to chart out a common strategy to combat COVID-19 in the region.

► SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (SASEC)

- **Members:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal & Sri Lanka (**Pakistan is not included while Myanmar is there, among SAARC members**).
- A project-based partnership that aims to promote regional prosperity, improve economic opportunities and build a better quality of life in the subregion.

VISION

- Boost intraregional trade & cooperation in South Asia
- Developing connectivity and trade with Southeast Asia through Myanmar, to China and global market.

PRIORITY SECTORS

- **Transport**
- **Trade Facilitation**
- **Energy**
- **Economic Corridor Development.**

► ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

- It is **Manila based** financial institution whose mission is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people.



- It is owned and financed by its 67 members, of which 48 are from the region and 19 are from other parts of the globe. India is also a member of this bank.
- It raises funds through bond issues on world's capital markets and rely on members' contributions, earnings from lending operations and the repayment of loans.
- Chairmanship of ADB is **always allotted to a Japanese**. Its 3 Deputy Chairmen belong to USA, Europe & Asia.

► NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK

- It is also known as **BRICS bank**.
- During the **sixth BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (2014)**, the leaders signed the Fortaleza Agreement establishing the New Development Bank (NDB).

- It is headquartered in **Shanghai, China**.
- Unlike the World Bank, which assigns votes based on capital share, in the New Development Bank each participant country has assigned one vote and none of the countries has veto power.

► ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK (AIIB)

- AIIB is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond. It is headquartered in **Beijing**.
- The capital of the bank is \$100 billion, equivalent to 2/3 of the capital of the Asian Development Bank and about half that of the World Bank.
- India hosted the annual meeting of AIIB for the first time in June 2018.
- **India is the second largest shareholder** in AIIB after China and is also the largest recipient of funds from the multilateral agency. **India is its founding member**.

► INTERPOL



- Interpol is **International Criminal Police Organization**, an inter-governmental organization. It has 194 member countries, and it helps police in all of them to work together to make the world a safer place.
- In each country, an INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) provides central point of contact for General Secretariat and other NCBs. An NCB is run by national police officials and usually sits in government ministry responsible for policing.
- **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** is designated as the National Central Bureau of India.
- INTERPOL Notices are international requests for cooperation or alerts allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information.
- Notices are published by the General Secretariat at the request of a National Central Bureau and are made available to all our member countries.

INTERNATIONAL GROUPINGS

► APEC

- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a regional economic forum **established in 1989** to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.
- APEC's 21 members aim to create greater prosperity for the people of the region by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration.
- India is **not a member of APEC**
- India has requested membership in APEC, and received initial support from the United States, Japan, Australia and Papua New Guinea.
- **India does not border the Pacific Ocean, which all current members do.**
- APEC's 21 member economies are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Philippines; Russia; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America.



► NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM)

Prime Minister participated in the online Summit of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Contact Group on Covid-19 held on 04 May 2020 to discuss response to the Covid-19 pandemic, along with over 30 other Heads of State and Government.

- The Non-Aligned Movement was formed during the Cold War, largely on the initiative of then-Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito, as an organization of States that did not seek to formally align themselves with

INTERNATIONAL GROUPINGS AND MEET

either the United States or the Soviet Union but sought to remain independent or neutral.

- The basic concept for the group originated in 1955 during discussions that took place at the **Asia-Africa Bandung Conference held in Indonesia**.
- The First NAM Summit Conference took place in **Belgrade, Yugoslavia**, in September 1961.
- The Conference was attended by 25 countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Yemen, Myanmar, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yugoslavia.
- **NAM does not have a formal constitution or permanent secretariat**, and its administration is non-hierarchical and rotational.
- **Decisions are made by consensus**, which requires substantial agreement, but not unanimity.

► INDIAN TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (ITEC)

- India has organised a training course for the officials of the Government of Nepal on 'Global Perspectives on Public Financial Management'. This training program is a part of India's ITEC program.
- Launched by GoI in 1964 as a program of bilateral cooperation and technical assistance.
- Presently 158 countries in Asia, East Europe (including former USSR), Central Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean as well as Pacific and Small Island countries are invited to share in the Indian developmental experience in various fields.

► RIC TRILATERAL MEET

The 16th meeting of Foreign Ministers of India, Russia and China was held in China recently.

- The trilateral forum RIC was established in 2002, as means to balance the United States led global order in international economics and commerce such as in International Monetary Fund and World Bank.
- It focuses on four broad clusters of areas: Economic and Developmental issues, Fight against terrorism, Global / Multilateral issues and regional issues.
- The 1st trilateral Russia-India-China consultation on Asia Pacific affairs was held in Beijing in 2016.
- The RIC trilateral partly led to the formation of BRICS which incorporated Brazil and South Africa.

- It eventually became overshadowed by the BRICS and SCO in terms of relevance.

► UN-HABITAT ASSEMBLY

India has been elected to the Executive Board of first UN-Habitat Assembly hosted by UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) at its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

During the first session, the Assembly adopted its rules of procedure and endorsed the rules of procedure of the Executive Board.

- The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is the United Nations agency for human settlements. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.
- In 2018, the UN General Assembly decided to dissolve the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and to replace it with a United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat Assembly).
- UN-Habitat Assembly is a universal body composed of the 193 member states of the United Nations and convenes every four years.

► INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION (IORA)

MoS, Ministry of External Affairs led the Indian delegation at the 20th Meeting of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers (COM) hosted virtually by UAE, IORA Chair on 17th December 2020.

- It is an inter-governmental organisation which was established in 1997. It aims at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region through its 22 Member States and 10 Dialogue Partners.
- All sovereign States of the Indian Ocean Rim are eligible for membership of the Association.
- Member states are Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
- Dialogue Partners: Italy, Japan, Germany, China, United Kingdom, United States of America, France, Egypt, Turkey and Korea.

INTERNATIONAL GROUPINGS AND MEET

INDIAN OCEAN DIALOGUE (IOD)

The 6th Indian Ocean Dialogue took place in India with the theme "Indo-Pacific: Re-imagining the Indian Ocean through an Expanded Geography".

- This is the second time when India hosted this event.
- It is a flagship initiative of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), with its origins in the 13th Council of Ministers meeting, held in November 2013 in Perth, Australia. The first IOD was held in Kerala, India in 2014.

► INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION

India has been approved as an observer state for Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). India has become the fifth observer in the commission.

- Indian Ocean Commission is an inter-governmental organisation that was created in 1982 in Mauritius. It consists of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Reunion.
- France has also encouraged the involvement of India in projects of the European Union in the Indian Ocean

► INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL SYMPOSIUM (IONS)

- It is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime co-operation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.
- Acts as an open & inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues.
- It was launched in 2008 by India Navy which rotates its chair every two years like IORA.
- Both India and Pakistan are part of it.
- IONS conducted its first-ever exercise at sea in 2017 in the Bay of Bengal.

► G4

- The members of G4 are India, Japan, Germany and Brazil.
- The primary aim of G4 is the reform of UNSC with an expansion of both permanent and non-permanent members and an improvement in the working method of UNSC.
- They have declared their candidature for a permanent seat within an expanded UNSC and have supported the candidature of each other for the same position.

► COFFEE CLUB/UNITING FOR CONSENSUS

- The formation of the G4 led to formation of the informal group known as Coffee Club or Uniting for Consensus.
- It consists of nations that are selectively **opposed to the G4 members** due to regional rivalry such as Pakistan against India, Italy against Germany, Argentina and Mexico against Brazil, etc.
- Similarly, it consists of nations that consider the expansion of UNSC as un-necessary for global governance.

► G7

Recently, UK hosted the 47th G7 Summit at Cornwall. Indian Prime Minister participated at this meet on the invitation of UK PM. Besides India, Australia, South Korea and South Africa participated as guests.

ABOUT G7

- The Group of 7 (G7) is an informal group of seven countries — the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom, the heads of which hold an annual summit with European Union and other invitees.
- India, Australia, South Korea and South Africa were invited to 47th G7 summit hosted by UK.
- Together the G7 member countries represent 40% of global GDP and 10% of the world's population.
- G7 has no legal existence, permanent secretariat or official members.
- Leaders of G7 countries meets annually and discusses emerging global issues.
- The presidency of G7 meetings is held by each of the 7 countries in turn, each year.

KEY OUTCOMES OF 47TH G7 MEET

- **Build Back Better World (B3W) Project:** Conceptualised by the US to narrow the US \$40 trillion infrastructure needs of the developing world. It is an Alternative infrastructure initiative to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative. It works on the principles of 'Transparency and Inclusion', respects Environmental and labour laws
- Reached a deal on **Global minimum corporate taxes**- The deal aimed at controlling tax evasion by Multinational companies.
- G7 to donate **1 billion COVID Vaccine doses** to developing nations.

INTERNATIONAL GROUPINGS AND MEET

- It called for timely, transparent and science-based WHO-convened Phase 2 **COVID-19 Origin's study**.
- Stressed the need for **Rules based international order** and **freedom of navigation** with reference to China.
- G7 leaders agreed to raise their contributions to meet an overdue spending **pledge of \$100 billion** a year to help poorer countries cut carbon emissions and cope up with Global warming.

D 10 COALITION

- The combination of G7 and 3 other invitees- India, Australia and South Korea has drawn attention to an expanded 'D10' coalition of democracies.
- First proposed by Boris Johnson, the original purpose of D10 was aimed to address China's growing technological clout in 5G as well as supply chain vulnerabilities that were exposed during pandemic.
- But gradually, with the Joe Biden's efforts, the group is being seen as an alternate democratic arrangement against the authoritarian states such as China.

► G20

Prime Minister participated in the 16th G-20 Summit in Rome from 30-31 October 2021 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Italy.

- Leaders committed to inject over USD 5 trillion into the global economy to counter the social and economic impact of Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Debt Service Suspension Initiative** offering temporary suspension of Government-to-Government debt to low-income countries was also announced and is being implemented.
- The Summit was centred on the theme **"Realizing Opportunities of 21st Century for All"**.
- The G20 is an international forum of 19 countries and the European Union. The 19 countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, South Africa, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Kingdom & USA.
- Since it operates as a forum and not as an organisation, it **does not have any permanent secretariat** or administrative structure. The group's chair rotates annually among the members and is selected from a different regional grouping of countries.
- To ensure continuity, the presidency is supported by a "troika" made up of the current, immediate past and next host countries.

INTERNATIONAL GROUPINGS AND MEET

- The G20 Summit is formally known as the 'Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy'. It has the primary aim to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.

► INDIA ENTERS G20 TROIKA

- India joined the G20 Troika which consists of Indonesia, Italy, and India - the current, previous and incoming G20 Presidencies, respectively.
- Indonesia has assumed the G20 Presidency today and will convene various G20 meetings throughout the year culminating with G20 Leaders' Summit in 2022 under the overall theme of "Recover Together Recover Stronger". As a Troika-member, India will work closely with Indonesia and Italy to ensure consistency and continuity of the G20's agenda.

► SHIMLA AGREEMENT, 1972

- Shimla Agreement was a peace treaty signed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan on 2nd July 1972 after the 1971 Bangladesh War, with the main intent to bring about withdrawals of troops and an exchange of POWs.
- Under the Shimla Agreement stated that Kashmir will be a bilateral issue thereby ending the possibility of any third-party involvement.

► LAHORE DECLARATION, 1999

- The Lahore Declaration was signed between Prime Minister of India, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, and Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

- Lahore Declaration was signed after the nuclear tests conducted by both countries but was preceded by the betrayal of Pakistan through Kargil War and subsequent exile of Nawaz Sharif by Pervez Musharraf.

- Shimla Agreement & Lahore Declaration provide basis to resolve all issues between India & Pakistan bilaterally.

► INDIA-PACIFIC ISLAND COOPERATION (FIPIC)

- A multinational grouping founded in 2014 for cooperation between India & 14 Pacific Islands nations.
- It includes Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
- Papua New Guinea is the largest of the PSIDS and Nauru is the smallest one.
- All Head of state/head of government of above countries met in Suva, Fiji in November 2014 for the first time where annual summit was conceptualised.

► INDIA-CARICOM LEADERS' SUMMIT

The first-ever India-Caricom leaders' summit was concluded with India offering \$150 million line of credit for solar, renewable energy and climate- change related projects.



- The Caribbean community, also known as CARICOM, is a grouping of 15 member states and five associate members.

Caricom countries came together in 1973 to form an economic and political community that works jointly to

shape policies for the region and encourages economic growth and trade.

► GLOBAL SOLAR COUNCIL

Solar Man of India Pranav R Mehta has become the first Indian to head Global Solar Council (GSC).

- It is the voice of the world's solar energy industry based in Washington D.C.
- It is an international non-profit association of national, regional and international associations in solar energy and the world's leading corporations.
- It was launched at the historic United Nations Climate Change Conference (UN COP 21) in December 2015. It offers programs in regulatory policy, trade policy, market trends and new market openings and jobs and skills training.

► C40 WORLD MAYOR'S SUMMIT

- C40 is a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change.
- C40 supports cities to collaborate effectively, share knowledge and drive meaningful, measurable and sustainable action on climate change.
- From India, there are five cities, namely, Delhi NCT, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Jaipur. However, Jaipur is temporarily inactive.

► COALITION FOR DISASTER RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

The Second International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure - 2019 was hosted in India and the main objective of the conference is to pursue the creation of a global coalition for resilient infrastructure.

- It is being organised by NDMA in collaboration with United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), and in partnership with the Global Commission on Adaptation, United Nations Development Program and the World Bank.
- The 2016 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) highlighted the need for stronger collaboration and co-operation among countries towards building resilient infrastructure.
- It also saw the adoption of the 'Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework'.

BACKGROUND

- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 identifies investing in Disaster Risk

INTERNATIONAL GROUPINGS AND MEET

Reduction for resilience and to build better in reconstruction as priorities for action towards reducing disaster risk.

- It is a **15-year voluntary, non-binding agreement** for disaster risk reduction and succeeded the Hyogo Framework for Action that was in force from 2005 to 2015.

ABOUT CDRI

- It has been launched by India in Sept 2019 at UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit, New York.
- The fledgling partnership has a secretariat in Delhi, supported by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), to enable knowledge exchange, technical support and capacity building.
- Established as a platform for generating and exchanging knowledge, CDRI will conduct country-specific and global activities.
- It will provide member countries technical support and capacity development, research and knowledge management, and advocacy and partnerships to facilitate and encourage investment in disaster resilient infrastructure systems.

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RESILIENT ISLAND STATES (IRIS) PLATFORM

- A dedicated initiative under CDRI that will provide technical support on multifaceted issues posed by infrastructure systems; promote disaster & climate resilience of infrastructure assets in small island developing states (SIDS)
- Goal of IRIS will contribute to the SAMOA Pathway (SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action).

OUTCOMES

- Improve resilience of SIDS infrastructure to climate change & disaster risk.
- Strengthen knowledge & partnerships for integrating resilience in SIDS infrastructure.
- Promote gender equality & disability inclusion through resilient SIDS infrastructure.

► IBSA (INDIA, BRAZIL & SOUTH AFRICA)

- *The IBSA Sherpas' Meeting, following the 9th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Meeting, was held in Cochin.*
- The forum was established in 2003 by the Brasilia Declaration and intends for South-South cooperation.
- Its purpose is to function as a forum among members for consultation and coordination on global and

regional political issues & trilateral collaboration on projects.

- The 1st IBSA Sherpa' / Sous Sherpa' meeting was held in Chennai, India in 2018 to commemorate IBSA's 15th Anniversary in 2018-19.

IBSA FUND

- The IBSA Facility Fund for Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger (IBSA Fund) was created in 2004 and became operational in 2006.
- Aims to support projects in developing countries in particular Least Developed Countries (LDCs) & Post Conflict Reconstruction & Development countries.
- The IBSA Fund is managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), which lends its professional expertise to multiple stakeholders in promoting the development of the Global South.
- Each country currently contributes US\$1million per year to the Fund and serves upon projects based upon the capabilities available in the IBSA countries and in their internal best practices.

SSC AND ODA

- IBSA have stated that IBSA Fund is not Official Developmental Assistance & have asserted for differentiation between South-South Cooperation and Official Developmental Aid.
- SSC is not aid and developing countries engaged in SSC are not donors and recipients but developing partners.
- Official development assistance (ODA) is a term coined by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to measure aid such as in form of soft loan, etc. for economic development for recipient country.

ODA	SSC
ODA is obligatory in nature for developed countries.	SSC is voluntary in nature.
ODA is a supply driven process whereby it is the donor country that determine the projects to fund.	SSC is a demand driven process whereby it is the partner countries that determine the priorities in IBSA projects.
ODA creates 'new dependencies' between donor and recipient country.	SSC rests primarily in creating inter-dependence with recipient country initiate, organise and manage

INTERNATIONAL GROUPINGS AND MEET

	activities on projects.
ODA mainly implements projects with economic and political conditionality on recipient countries.	SSC relies on economic and political non-conditionality.

- A Sherpa is the personal representative of a government who prepares and coordinates in international summit or meeting.
- IBSA Sherpas are supposed to take forward the observations and decisions taken by IBSA Head of State meetings and IBSA Ministerial meetings.

► SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

- It refers to the technical cooperation among developing countries in the Global South.
- It is a tool used by the states, international organizations, academics, civil society and the private sector to collaborate and share knowledge, skills and successful initiatives in specific areas such as agricultural development, human rights, urbanization, health, climate change etc.
- The main tenets of SSC are respect for national sovereignty, non-interference in domestic affairs, non-conditionality, national ownership, equality, and mutual benefit.
- SSC is instrumental in enhancing the collective ability of the Global South to strengthen their voice and bargaining power vis-à-vis the Global North.

► NORTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

- The division of "North" and "South" is used to refer to the social, economic and political differences that exist between developed countries (North) and developing countries (South).
- **North-South cooperation** occurs when a developed country supports economically or with another kind of resources a less favored one, for example, with financial aid during a natural disaster or a humanitarian crisis.
- **Triangular cooperation**, as the name implies, involves three actors, two from the South and one from the North. The latter, which can also be an international organization, provides the financial resources so that the countries of the South can exchange technical assistance on a specific topic.

► QUADRILATERAL SECURITY DIALOGUE (QUAD)

- The 'Quadrilateral Group' is considered as an informal grouping among **India, Japan, Australia, and the United States** to support a "free, open and prosperous" Indo-Pacific region.
- All four nations find a common ground of being the democratic nations and common interests of unhindered maritime trade and security
- The demand for the group is a causal reaction to China's emergence as a great power and the fear of China's growing unilateralism through BRI, expansion in South China Sea, skirmishes on borders, etc. This fear has driven the four powers to consider banding together in form of collective security arrangement.
- The first Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) among the 4 countries was first held in 2007 but discontinued in 2008. It was again revived in an informal meet among US, India, Japan, and Australia held in Manila, Philippines in 2017.
- The first summit level meeting of the Quad group was held in 2021 giving the group highest political backing. In the summit following structures were created.

- **COVID-19 Pandemic**

- **QUAD Vaccine Experts Group**

- Design and implementation plan for the Quad COVID-19 vaccine effort; identify hurdles impeding vaccine administration in the region.
 - work with financiers and production facilities to monitor timely and sufficient capacity expansion that will lead to wider distribution of safe and effective vaccines.
 - share governmental plans to support Indo-Pacific health security and COVID-19 response and identify practical cooperation on "last-mile" delivery for hard-to-reach communities in need.
 - strengthen and support the life-saving work of international organizations, including the WHO, COVAX, Gavi, CEPI, UNICEF, the G7, ASEAN, and governments, and call on other countries to do the same.
 - make additional concrete recommendations before the end of the year.

- Reform of the World Health Organization

- **Climate Change**

- **Quad Climate Working Group**

- Focus on implementation of Paris Agreement, including to keep Paris-aligned temperature limit within reach.
 - Working together and supporting other countries on climate change.
 - Advancing low-emissions technology solutions to support emissions reduction
 - Cooperation on climate mitigation, resilience, technology, capacity building and climate finance.

- **Quad Critical and Emerging Technology Working Group**

- Develop a statement of principles on technology design, development and use
 - Facilitate coordination on technology standards development, including between our national technology standards bodies and working with a broad range of partners.
 - Encourage cooperation on telecommunications deployment, diversification of equipment suppliers, and future telecommunications, including through close cooperation with our private sectors and industry.
 - Facilitate cooperation to monitor trends and opportunities related to developments in critical and emerging technology, including biotechnology.
 - Convene dialogues on critical technology supply chains.

► BASIC COUNTRIES

- The BASIC countries held their 28th Ministerial meeting on Climate Change in August 2019 at Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- It is a grouping of recently industrialised nations- **Brazil, South Africa, India and China** which is formed as the result of an agreement signed by the four countries on November 2009 at Copenhagen Summit of UNCCC.
- These nations have a common position on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and raising the massive funds that are needed to fight climate change.
- China will host the next meeting of the BASIC Ministers.

► INDIA-ASEAN SUMMIT

- ASEAN Summit is a biannual meeting held by the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in relation to economic, political,

security, and socio-cultural development of Southeast Asian countries.

- Recently, 35th ASEAN summit was hosted by Thailand in 2019. The summit coincided with 16th India-ASEAN Summit, 14th East Asia Summit, and 3rd meeting of RCEP.
- The 17th ASEAN-India Summit was also held on 12 November 2020 via videoconference.
- The Leaders noted the adoption of **ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2021- 2025)**.
- Prime Minister in his remarks underlined the central role of ASEAN for India's Act East Policy and announced a contribution of **USD 1 million to Covid-19 ASEAN Response Fund**.

ASEAN

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising ten countries in Southeast Asia - **Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, Cambodia, Myanmar (Burma), Laos**.
- It aims to promote intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and socio-cultural integration among its members and other countries in Asia.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The mutual coordination of the Indo-Pacific Outlook between India and ASEAN.
- India's \$1 billion worth line of credit forwarded to ASEAN.
- Vowed to combat terrorism.

ASEAN has adopted the 'ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific' after more than a year of negotiations in the recently concluded ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) held in Bangkok, Thailand.

INTERNATIONAL GROUPINGS AND MEET

► EAST ASIA SUMMIT (EAS)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 16th East Asia Summit earlier via videoconference. The 16th East Asia Summit was hosted by Brunei as EAS and ASEAN Chair. It saw the participation of leaders from ASEAN countries and other EAS Participating Countries including Australia, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, USA and India. India has been an active participant of EAS.

- EAS is a regional forum held annually by leaders of, initially, 16 countries in the East Asian, Southeast Asian, and South Asian regions, based on the ASEAN Plus Six mechanism.
- Membership expanded to 18 countries including Russia and the United States at the Sixth EAS in 2011.
- EAS meeting is held after annual ASEAN leaders' meetings and plays an important role in the regional architecture of Asia-Pacific.
- PM Modi has also proposed an "**Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative**" for safe, secure and stable maritime domain under the aegis of East Asia Summit.

4TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT (EAS) CONFERENCE ON MARITIME SECURITY COOPERATION

India in partnership with Australia and Indonesia will organize the fourth EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation in Chennai in February 2020.

► ASIA INTERNET COALITION

The AIC has submitted its initial response to Pakistan's Citizens Protection Rules (Against Online Harm) ("Rules"). In the submission, AIC has expressed sincere concern that unless revoked, these rules will severely cripple the growth of Pakistan's digital economy.

ABOUT ASIA INTERNET COALITION

- The Asia Internet Coalition (AIC) was established in 2010 as an industry association that promotes the understanding and resolution of Internet policy issues in the Asia Pacific region.
- In 2019, the membership comprises of leading internet and technology companies, namely Amazon, Airbnb, Apple, Booking.com, Expedia Group, Facebook, Grab, Google, LinkedIn, LINE, Rakuten, Twitter and Yahoo (Oath).
- Its mission is to represent the internet industry and participate and promote stakeholder dialogue between the public and private sectors, sharing best practices and ideas on internet technology and the digital economy.

- AIC also has a “Friends of AIC” scheme where other industry groups and independent Internet-based companies can partner with them as a growing industry voice in the digital economy of Asia Pacific.

► WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

Amidst COVID-19 Outbreak, the United States has stopped its funding towards World Health Organization (WHO).

ABOUT WHO

- WHO is a specialized agency of UN that acts as a coordinating authority on international public health.
- Established in 1948, succeeded Health Organization, which was an agency of League of Nations.
- Member of UN Development Group. Its headquarters is located at Geneva.
- It is stated in the constitution of the WHO that its objective “is the attainment by all people of the highest possible level of health”.

ABOUT WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

The apex decision-making body for WHO is the World Health Assembly whose main function is to determine the policies of the Organization.

ABOUT FUNDING OF WHO

- There are four major kinds of contributions that make up the funds of WHO. It includes assessed contribution, voluntary contribution, core voluntary contributions and PIP contributions.
- The Assessed contributions are the amounts that are expected to be paid by member states.
- The Voluntary contributions are funds provided by countries through private organizations.
- The core voluntary contributions are those funds that require immediate financing.
- The PIP contributions are Pandemic Influenza Preparedness that were begun in 2011 to strengthen access of vaccines by developing countries.
- Among all the contributions, voluntary contributions make up most of the funding.

ABOUT WHO AND INDIA

- India became a party to the WHO on 12 January 1948.
- Regional office for Southeast Asia is in New Delhi.

► COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS

The Maldives re-joined the Commonwealth, more than three years after the Indian Ocean island nation quit amid mounting criticism of its human rights. (In 2016, the Maldives pulled out of the Commonwealth).

INTERNATIONAL GROUPINGS AND MEET

- The Commonwealth of Nations, at one time known as British Commonwealth, is an organisation of fifty-four states that were principally below the colonial rule of British Government.
- Established in 1949 by the London Declaration.
- It operates by inter-governmental consensus of the member states.

► CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA (CICA)

- External Affairs Minister of India participated in the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures (CICA) in Asia, held virtually in September 2020.
- India is a member of CICA since its inception in 1999 and has been actively participating in various activities conducted under the aegis of CICA. Total: 27 members.
- A multinational forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security & stability in Asia.
- The forum is based on the recognition that there is a close link between peace, security and stability in Asia and in the rest of the world.
- The idea of convening the CICA was first proposed by the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- The two founding documents of CICA are Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations between the CICA Member States adopted at the First Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Almaty on 14 September 1999 and Almaty Act, the charter of the CICA, adopted at the First Summit Meeting held in Almaty on 4 June 2002. These two documents became the steppingstone towards future evolution of the CICA.
- For becoming a member of CICA, a state must have at least a part of its territory in Asia. Fifteen states meeting this criterion signed the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations between the CICA Member States at the First Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in 1999 and became founding members of CICA.

► ASIA COOPERATION DIALOGUE

- The body was inaugurated in 2002 in Cha-Am, Thailand where 18 Asian Foreign Ministers met for the first time.

- A continent-wide forum, the first of its kind in Asia. It aims to contribute the missing link in Asia by incorporating every Asian country and building an Asian Community with duplicating other organisations or creating a bloc against others.
- A key principle is to consolidate Asian strengths and fortify Asia's competitiveness by maximising diversity and rich resources evident in Asia.

Objectives:

- Promote interdependence among Asian countries which will help reduce poverty and improve quality of life for Asian people
 - Expand trade and financial market within Asia
 - Serve as missing link in Asian cooperation
 - Transform Asian continent to Asian Community
- **Membership:** 35 Asian Countries are members of the body. India is a founding member of the organisation.

► NON - ALIGNED MOVEMENT

Prime Minister participated in the online Summit of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Contact Group on Covid-19 held on 04 May 2020 to discuss response to the Covid-19 pandemic, along with over 30 other Heads of State and Government.

- The Non-Aligned Movement was formed during the Cold War, largely on the initiative of then-Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito, as an organization of States that did not seek to formally align themselves with either the United States or the Soviet Union but sought to remain independent or neutral.
- The basic concept for the group originated in 1955 during discussions that took place at the **Asia-Africa Bandung Conference held in Indonesia**.
- The First NAM Summit Conference took place in **Belgrade, Yugoslavia**, in September 1961.
- The Conference was attended by 25 countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Yemen, Myanmar, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yugoslavia.
- NAM **does not have a formal constitution or permanent secretariat**, and its administration is non-hierarchical and rotational.

INTERNATIONAL GROUPINGS AND MEET

- **Decisions are made by consensus**, which requires substantial agreement, but not unanimity.

► ALLIANCE FOR MULTILATERALISM

Alliance for Multilateralism held a virtual ministerial meeting to celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations. India's EAM participated in the meeting.

- The Alliance for Multilateralism, launched in April 2019 by the **French and German Foreign Ministers**, is an **informal alliance of countries** that are convinced that multilateralism founded on respect for international law is the only reliable guarantee for international stability and peace and that the challenges we are facing can only be solved through cooperation.
- Aims to bring together willing partners who can express themselves and act.

► BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

- UN has organized four world conferences on women. These took place in Mexico City in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980, Nairobi in 1985 and Beijing in 1995. The last was followed by a series of five-year reviews.
- The 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing marked a significant turning point for the global agenda for gender equality.
- The **Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action**, adopted unanimously by 189 countries, is an agenda for women's empowerment and considered the key global policy document on gender equality.
- It sets strategic objectives and actions for the advancement of women and the achievement of gender equality.
- Minister for Women and Child Development delivered a statement (pre-recorded) at the high-level meeting held in October 2020 under the theme "**Accelerating the Realization of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls**".

► UN COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW

- The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) is the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law.

-
- A legal body with universal membership specializing in commercial law reform worldwide for over 50 years, UNCITRAL's business is the modernization and harmonization of rules on international business.
 - UNCITRAL was established by the General Assembly in 1966 (Resolution 2205 of 17 December 1966).
 - UNCITRAL carries out its work through the six Working Groups which are assigned specific topics to work on from time to time.

► 1ST COMMITTEE OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY - VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS

- The United Nations General Assembly First Committee (also known as the Disarmament and International Security Committee or DISEC or C1) is one of six main committees at the General Assembly of the United Nations. It deals with disarmament and international security matters.
- India's traditional resolution titled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction," was again adopted by the First Committee in 2020 without a vote.
- The resolution calls upon UN Member States to take measures aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and to support international efforts in this regard.
- India's two other resolutions were also adopted by broad support of the UN member States:

INTERNATIONAL GROUPINGS AND MEET

- (a) **Convention on prohibition of use of nuclear weapons**, which reiterates the call to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on an International Convention for prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances.
- (b) **Reducing Nuclear Danger** highlights the need for a review nuclear doctrines and immediate steps to reduce the risk of intentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through their de-alerting and de-targeting.
- Another India-sponsored resolution on the "Role of Science and Technology in the context of International Security and Disarmament" was adopted by consensus.
- The Resolution encourages outreach events at the national, regional and international levels to facilitate multilateral dialogue concurrent developments in science and technology and the potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts.

► 6TH COMMITTEE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Sixth Committee is the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly. All UN Member States are entitled to representation on the Sixth Committee as one of the main committees of the General Assembly.

INDIA AND THE WORLD

► INDIA CHINA BORDER DISPUTE

20 India soldiers died in a clash with People's liberation army of China in a clash at the Galwan valley in Ladakh region.

INDIA - CHINA BOUNDARY DISPUTE

- India shares a 3488-long boundary with China along the states of **Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.**
- However, the border between India and China is not clearly demarcated throughout and there is no mutually agreed Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- The difference in perception of boundary lines between India and China has resulted in one of longest political battles over boundaries in the history.



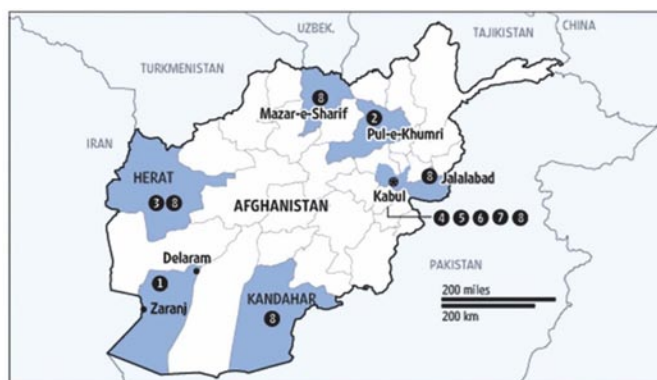
WESTERN SECTOR I.E. AKSAI CHIN SECTOR

- The two sides differ over the **boundary line that separates Jammu and Kashmir from Xinjiang province of China.**
- India accuses China of illegally occupying Aksai Chin, and some other parts of Ladakh region.
- According to China, Aksai Chin is the extension of Tibet plateau whereas India claims it as an extension of Ladakh plateau.
- The region is mostly uninhabited.

Significance for China: Aksai chin is important for China as it connects two backward provinces of China i.e., Tibet and Xinjiang.

► AFGHANISTAN - SHAHTOOT DAM

- India announced an agreement with Afghanistan for building the **Shatoot dam**, which would provide safe drinking water to 2 million residents of Kabul city.
- It is being developed on the Kabul River basin.

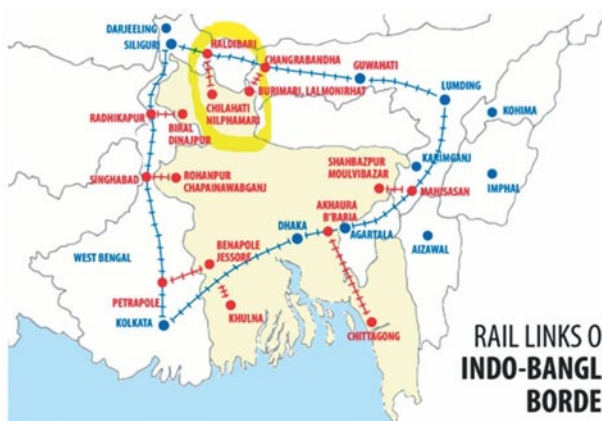


Some Indian projects in Afghanistan

- Construction of 218 kilometer-long road from Zaranj to Delaram for the movement of goods and services from Afghanistan to the Iranian border and onwards to the Chahbahar Port.
 - Construction of 220-Kilovolts double circuit transmission line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul.
 - Construction of 42-megawatt Salma Dam power project in Herat province to be completed by 2011.
 - Construction of parliament building in Kabul to be completed by 2011.
 - Expansion of national television network with an uplink from Kabul and downlinks in all 34 provincial capitals.
 - Women's Vocational Training Centre in Bagh-e-Zanana for training of Afghan women in garment making, nursery plantation, food processing and marketing.
 - Reconstruction of Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Afghanistan's only hospital for children, in Kabul.
 - Indian Medical Mission clinics in Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Kabul.
- Others: 84 ongoing projects related to agriculture, education, health, vocational training and solar energy in 19 provinces. Distribution of high-protein biscuits everyday to nearly two million school children in 33 provinces.

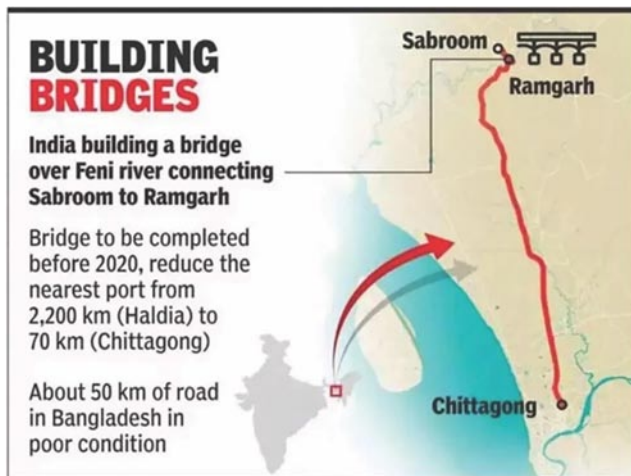
► BANGLADESH CONNECTIVITY

- Restored **railway link between Haldibari (India) and Chilahati (Bangladesh)** and noted that this rail link will further strengthen trade and people to people ties between the two sides.



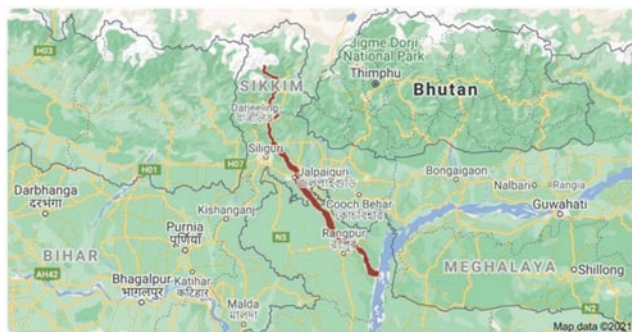
- Direct bus service between Kolkata and Agartala
- 1.9-kilometre-long bridge, the **Maitri Setu** connecting **Sabroom (Tripura) in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh.**
- To facilitate better connectivity and simplify movement of passengers and goods, both the countries agreed to an early operationalization of the **BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal) Motor Vehicles Agreement** through expeditious signing of the Enabling MoU for Bangladesh, India and Nepal to

commence the movement of goods and passengers, with provision for Bhutan to join at a later date.



► TEESTA RIVER WATER SHARING AGREEMENT

- It is long pending because of the non-cooperation of the West Bengal Government.
- Water is a state subject in India.
- Hence, for a bilateral agreement on the sharing of Teesta waters, the support of the West Bengal Government would also be needed.
- The river is important for irrigation in the northern parts of Bangladesh.
- Now Bangladesh is building a reservoir on its own side.
- For this it is seeking help of China.



Teesta River

► INDIA - AUSTRALIA

- Prime Ministers of both the countries held a bilateral Virtual Leaders' Summit on 4 June 2020.
- Both countries issued Joint Statement on a
- **"Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" and "Joint Declaration on a Shared Vision for Maritime Cooperation in Indo-Pacific."**

- Prime Minister- level Summit delivered Seven important MOUs/ agreements to drive cooperation with Australia. Important one being the Arrangement concerning **Mutual Logistics Support (MLSA)**.
- **Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA allows both sides access to military bases for logistics support.**
- This Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) is expected to help in the **interoperability** and will help the military platforms to receive support and supplies in both countries.

► INDIA – TAIWAN

ONE CHINA POLICY AND INDIA

- One China policy is a position enforced by the Communist Party of China (CPC) that rules the country. After it occupied mainland China in 1949, pushing out then ruling Kuomintang Party to Formosa, now known as Taiwan, the communist regime came up with One China policy.
- It staked claim on a much bigger territory of Tibet, then under a Buddhist order government with practically no military, besides Taiwan.
- China occupied Tibet by 1950 and consolidated its military stranglehold on the region through the decade.
- It has been aiming to capture Taiwan since then but in the face of global opposition, China has not dared to carry out its designs across the Formosa Strait in the South China Sea.
- India was among the first countries to recognise communist rule in China. Through the 1954 Sino-Indian Trade Agreement, India also acknowledged Chinese control of Tibet.
- India's support to One China policy remained in limbo until 2003. It was during this intervening period that China built its south Tibet claim over Arunachal Pradesh.
- In 2003, then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee - heading another BJP-led NDA government - signed a joint declaration with his counterpart Wen Jiabao in Beijing. This declaration recognised that the Tibet Autonomous Region is part of the territory of the People's Republic of China.

INDIA - TAIWAN RELATIONS

- Diplomatic relations have improved between India and Taiwan since 1990s, but they do have official diplomatic relations.

- India recognises only the People's Republic of China (in mainland China) and not the Republic of China's claims of being the legitimate government of Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau.
- However, Taiwan views India's rising geopolitical standing as a counterbalance to the PRC's dominance in the region.
- As a part of its "Look East" foreign policy, India has sought to cultivate extensive ties with Taiwan in trade and investment and cultural ties.
- The **India-Taipei Association**^f was established in Taipei in 1995 to promote non-governmental interactions between India and Taiwan.
- In 2002, the two sides signed the Bilateral Investment Promotion & Protection Agreement.
- In 2019, India - Taiwan trade volume was US\$7 billion, growing at a rate of 20% year on year.
- Major Taiwanese exports to India include integrated circuits, machinery and other electronic products. India is also keen to attract Taiwanese investment particularly in hi-tech and labour-intensive industries. More than 80 Taiwanese companies and entities currently have a presence in India.

► ASIA – EUROPE MEETING (ASEM)

India also in the 14th ASEM Finance Ministers Meeting held virtually in November 2020 organised by Bangladesh.

- It is an intergovernmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe.
- The initial ASEM Partnership in 1996 consisted of 15 EU Member States, 7 ASEAN Member States, China, Japan, Korea and the European Commission. **Today, ASEM comprises 53 Partners: 30 European and 21 Asian countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat.**
- **India is a partner country.**

► AYEYAWADY-CHAOPHRAYA-MEKONG ECONOMIC COOPERATION STRATEGY (ACMECS)

- Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy or ACMECS is a cooperation framework among **Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam** to utilize member countries' diverse strengths

and to promote balanced development in the subregion.

- The areas of cooperation include, among others, transport, and trade and investment facilitation.
- India joined ACMECS as a Development Partner in July 2019 along with Australia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea and USA.

► INDO-PACIFIC OCEANS INITIATIVE

- As a natural progression of India's vision of Indo-Pacific and to give it concrete shape,
- Prime Minister announced the Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI) **at the East Asia Summit held in Bangkok** in November 2019.
- The IPOI is focused on finding cooperative solutions to global challenges in an open, inclusive and cooperative manner.
- As an open global initiative, it draws on existing regional cooperation architecture and mechanisms to focus on the seven central pillars conceived around Maritime Security; Maritime Ecology; Maritime Resources; Capacity Building and Resource Sharing; Disaster Risk Reduction and Management; Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation; Trade Connectivity and Maritime Transport.
- Taking the lead on pillars of Maritime Security and Disaster Risk Reduction, India has invited interested countries to come on board on one or more pillars of IPOI.

► UNSC RESOLUTION 1540(2004)

India coordinated with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Committee, established pursuant to UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) which obliges States, inter alia, to refrain from supporting non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their delivery systems, by any means.

► UNSC RESOLUTION 2538

- India co-sponsored this resolution at the UNSC.
- In **unanimously adopting resolution 2538 (2020)**, the Council called upon Member States, the United Nations Secretariat and regional organizations to strengthen their **collective efforts towards** women's

full, effective and meaningful participation at all peacekeeping levels and positions.

► ARRIA FORMULA MEETINGS OF UNSC

- India participated in Arria Formula meetings of the Security Council on the topics of Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Yemen.
- Arria-formula meetings are **not formal meetings of the Security Council**.
- They are convened at the initiative of a member or members of the Security Council to hear the views of individuals, organizations or institutions on matters within the competence of the Security Council.

► G-77

- The Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations participated in the virtual Flagship G-77 Ministerial Meeting on the theme **“Maintaining a Low Carbon Development Path towards the 2030 Agenda in the Era of Covid-19”**.

- The Group of 77 (G-77) was established on 15 June 1964 by seventy-seven developing countries signatories of the “Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Developing Countries” **issued at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva**.
- Presently it has 134 countries as members.
- **India is a founding member**.
- China **does not consider itself to be a member**, nor did it when it was generally regarded as a developing country. However, the country supports and financially contributes to G77, and official statements are made with China
- The Group of 77 is the **largest intergovernmental organization of developing countries in the United Nations**, which provides the means for the countries of the South to articulate and promote their collective economic interests and enhance their joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within the United Nations system and **promote South-South cooperation for development**.

ARMS CONTROL

► JOINT STATEMENT ON PREVENTING NUCLEAR WAR & AVOIDING ARMS RACE

Leaders of Five Nuclear Weapon States (China, USA, UK, France & Russia) issued a joint statement on Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding Arms Race.

SALIENT FEATURES

- They consider avoidance of war between Nuclear-Weapon States and reduction of strategic risks as their foremost responsibilities.
- A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. Nuclear weapons, for as long as they continue to exist, should serve defensive purposes, deter aggression and prevent war. Further spread of such weapons must be prevented.
- Emphasised on addressing nuclear threats and importance of preserving and complying with their bilateral and multilateral non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control agreements and commitments.
- They are committed to Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) obligations, including Article 6 of NPT 'to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.'
- P5 countries will strengthen national measures to prevent unauthorised or unintended use of nuclear weapons. They also agreed on de-targeting meaning that none of their nuclear weapons will be targeted at each other or at any other State.
- P5 countries will work with all states to create a security environment more conducive to progress on disarmament with goal of a world without nuclear weapons with undiminished security for all.

INDIA'S STAND ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

- India has a doctrine of maintaining a credible minimum deterrence based on a No First Use posture and non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states.

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

- The NPT is a multilateral treaty aimed at limiting the spread of nuclear weapons including three elements: (1) Non-proliferation, (2) Disarmament (3) Peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- The Treaty defines nuclear weapon states (NWS) as those that had manufactured and detonated a nuclear explosive device prior to 1 January 1967.

- All the other states are therefore considered non-nuclear weapon states (NNWS). The five nuclear weapon states are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- The Treaty does not affect the right of state parties to develop, produce, and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.
- The IAEA verifies NNWS compliance with commitments under the NPT not to acquire nuclear weapons.
- Negotiation of such an agreement should begin immediately after the NNWS' accession to the NPT and enter into force within 18 months.

WHY INDIA DID NOT SIGN NPT

- India, Israel, and Pakistan possess nuclear weapons but have never accepted the NPT. India did not sign the NPT, not because of its lack of commitment for non-proliferation, but because NPT creates a club of "nuclear haves" and a larger group of "nuclear have-nots" by restricting the legal possession of nuclear weapons to those states that tested them before 1967.
- India considers NPT as a flawed treaty and as it does not recognize the need for universal, non-discriminatory verification and treatment.

► TREATY ON PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS/NUCLEAR WEAPON BAN TREATY

- Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons bans the use, possession, development, testing, deployment and transfer of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosives under international law.
- Adopted in 2017 and entered into force in 2021.
- The agreement was adopted by UN General Assembly in 2017 as the first legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons and lead towards their complete elimination.
- Signatories are barred from transferring or receiving nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, control over such weapons, or any assistance with activities prohibited under the Treaty.
- States are also prohibited from using or threatening to use nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices. States Parties cannot allow the stationing, installation, or deployment of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices in their territory.

- In addition to the Treaty's prohibitions, States Parties are obligated to provide victim assistance and help with environmental remediation efforts.
- **The treaty does not contain a verification regime. Each State Party must maintain its existing safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).**
- State Parties that have not yet done so must, at a minimum, conclude a comprehensive safeguards agreement.
- **Rescue Agreement of 1968** requires States to assist an astronaut in case of accident, distress, emergency or unintended landing.
- **Liability Convention of 1972** establishes the standards of liability for damage caused by space objects.
- **Registration Convention of 1975** requires States to register all objects launched into outer space with UN.
- **Moon Agreement of 1979** elaborates on the provisions of the Outer Space Treaty as they apply to the Moon and other celestial bodies.

INDIA'S STAND ON TPNW

- India's did not participate in the negotiations on the TPNW.
- India does not want to become a party to the treaty.
- India does not support the treaty and shall not be bound by any of the obligations that may arise from it. India believes that this treaty does not constitute or contribute to the development of customary international law, not does it set any new standards or norms.

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS (ICAN)

- It is a coalition of non-governmental organizations promoting adherence to and implementation of the UN nuclear weapon ban treaty.
- It was inspired by success of International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which led to antipersonnel mine ban treaty or Ottawa treaty in 1997.
- ICAN won a Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for its efforts in achieving NWBT.
- Support for NWBT & ICAN is mainly from the countries of four regions: Africa (Treaty of Pelindaba), South-East Asia (Bangkok Treaty), South Pacific (Treaty of Rarotonga) and Latin America and Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco). These treaties established Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the respective areas.

► OUTER SPACE TREATIES

The outer space is becoming democratised, commercialised and crowded, the multilateral framework for its governance is becoming obsolete. Since most of the Treaties governing the outer space were finalised in 1960s-70s.

There are five UN treaties relating to activities in Outer Space. The primary treaty is the Outer Space Treaty, 1967, the four other treaties are:

Note: India has signed all the five treaties but only ratified four whereby Moon Agreement is pending.

OUTER SPACE TREATY, 1967

International treaty binding the parties to use outer space only for peaceful purposes.

- Nations are prohibited from placing nuclear arms or other weapons of mass destruction in orbit, on the Moon, or on other bodies in space.
- Nations cannot claim sovereignty over the Moon or other celestial bodies.
- Nations are responsible for their activities in space, are liable for any damage caused by objects launched into space from their territory and are bound to assist astronauts in distress.
- Their space installations and vehicles shall be open, on a reciprocal basis, to representatives of other countries.
- Nations cannot establish military bases or installations, test "any type of Weapons" or conduct military exercises on the moon and other celestial bodies.
- However, Outer space is still used for transit of weapons & military satellites.

► NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP

- It is a multilateral export control regime and a group of nuclear supplier countries that seek to prevent nuclear proliferation by controlling the export of materials, equipment and technology that can be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.
- Currently, it has 48 participating governments.
- NSG first met in November 1975 in London and is thus popularly referred to as the "London Club". It was founded in response to Indian nuclear test in May 1974 called the Smiling Buddha.
- The NSG controls most of the world's nuclear trade. India has been trying to get into NSG without being signatory of NPT.

- While the U.S. and other countries support India's entry into the NSG, China is opposing India's membership citing Pakistan's non-admission in the exclusive group.

NSG GUIDELINES

- The NSG Guidelines aim to ensure that nuclear trade for peaceful purposes does not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, while not hindering international trade and cooperation in the nuclear field.
- The first set of NSG Guidelines governs the export of items that are especially **designed or prepared for nuclear use**.
- These include: (i) nuclear material; (ii) nuclear reactors and equipment; therefore, (iii) non-nuclear material for reactors; (iv) plant and equipment for the reprocessing, enrichment, and conversion of nuclear material and for fuel fabrication and heavy water production; and (v) technology associated with each of the above items.
- **Dual use controls** - The second set of NSG Guidelines governs the export of nuclear-related dual-use items and technologies (**items that have both nuclear and non-nuclear applications**), which could make a significant contribution to an unsafeguarded nuclear fuel cycle or nuclear explosive activity.
- The NSG Guidelines are consistent with, and complement, the various international, legally binding instruments in the field of nuclear non-proliferation. These include the NPT, and the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco), the South Pacific Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga), the African Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) and the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone (Treaty of Bangkok).

► CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

- India participated actively in the Conference on Disarmament (CD), putting forth its position on nuclear disarmament, prevention of an arms race in outer space, new types of weapons of mass destruction, and transparency in armaments, at its sessions from January-September 2020.
- CD was recognized by Tenth Special Session on Disarmament of the UN General Assembly (SSOD-I) (1978) as a single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community.

- The CD and its predecessors have negotiated such major multilateral arms limitation and disarmament agreements such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BWC), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC) and Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

► CIVIL NUCLEAR COOPERATION

- An Agreement between **Government of India and European Atomic Energy Community for Research and Development Cooperation in the field of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy** was concluded on 15 July 2020.
- An Arrangement extending the duration of the MoU between the Government of India and the Government of United States of America concerning cooperation with the Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership, India was announced on 27 October 2020.
- An MoU between **India's Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and Vietnam Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety** was signed on 21 December 2020.

► HAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT

- Hague Code of Conduct **against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOG)**, formerly known as International Code of Conduct, was adopted at an international conference held in 2002 in The Hague.
- It is aimed at **bolstering efforts to curb ballistic missile proliferation worldwide** and to further delegitimize such proliferation.
- The HCOG is the **only normative instrument** to verify the spread of ballistic missiles.
- The Code **does not call for the destruction of any missiles**, it is simply an agreement between States on how they should "conduct" their trade in missiles.
- It is meant to supplement Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), but its membership is not restricted.

► WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT

- India became the 42nd member in late 2017 of the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for

- Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies.
- The agreement to establish the Wassenaar Arrangement was reached in 1995, and the Wassenaar Arrangement became operational after the adoption of the Initial Elements in 1996.
- The Initial Elements establish the foundations of the Wassenaar Arrangement agreement and states its purpose, scope and modalities. It also constitutes the basic mechanism of information exchange on transfers of conventional weapons and dual-use goods and technologies.

EXPORT CONTROL REGULATIONS

- The munitions list consists of small arms, light weapons, tanks and other Military Armed Vehicles, aircraft and unmanned airborne vehicles, aero engines, among several other items. The dual-use goods and technologies list consist of sensors, lasers, propulsion systems, avionics, among several other items.
 - Country must be a producer/exporter of arms to become a member. Member countries have agreed to maintain national export controls on items included in the WA Control Lists. These controls are implemented via national legislation. The decision to transfer or deny the transfer of any item is the sole responsibility of each member country.
 - Initial Elements was amended after 9/11 attacks and a provision was added that countries would continue to prevent terrorist organisations and individuals from acquiring conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies that could be used for military purposes. This is significant because it recognized the responsibility of countries in the conduct of their military arms and technology trade with non-state actors.
 - The list of dual-use technologies was updated in 2013 to encompass surveillance and intelligence-gathering software referred to as 'intrusive software'. The motive is to restrict the sale and distribution of computer surveillance tools to oppressive regimes, terrorist groups and rogue countries.
- The principal objective of Australia Group participants' is to use licensing measures to ensure that exports of certain chemicals, biological agents, and dual-use chemical and biological manufacturing facilities and equipment, do not contribute to the spread of CBW.
 - Members need to be participants with strict adherence to the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

EXPORT CONTROL REGULATIONS

- Participants in the Australia Group do not undertake any legally binding obligations and therefore the effectiveness of AG depends solely on the commitment and the strength of each member's respective national measures.
- The items form the basis for the Group's 'common control lists and participants also require licenses for the export of Dual-use chemical manufacturing facilities, equipment and related technology, Plant pathogens, Animal pathogens, biological agents & Dual-use biological equipment and related technology.
- The control lists developed by the Group also includes technologies and equipment which can be used in the manufacturing or disposal of chemical and biological weapons.
- It has the "no-undercut" requirement, which stated that any member of the group considering making an export to another state that had already been denied an export by any other member of the group must first consult with that member state before approving the export.
- It has the "catch-all" provision which requires member states to halt all exports that could be used by importers in chemical or biological weapons programs, regardless of whether the export is on the group's control lists.

► INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

- Established as an autonomous organisation in 1957.
- Though established independently of the United Nations through its own international treaty, the IAEA Statute, the IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.
- India is a founding member of the IAEA.
- Signature and ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) are not preconditions for membership in the IAEA.

► AUSTRALIA GROUP

- The Australia Group is an informal arrangement which aims to allow exporting countries to minimise the risk of assisting in chemical and biological weapon (CBW) proliferation. The annual meetings of AG are held in Paris, France.

- North Korea is not a member.

IAEA SAFEGUARDS

- Safeguards are a set of technical measures applied by the IAEA on nuclear material and activities, through which the Agency seeks to independently verify that nuclear facilities are not misused and nuclear material not diverted from peaceful uses.
- States accept these measures through the conclusion of safeguards agreements.
- Under Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) treaty's Article 3, each Non-Nuclear Weapon State is required to conclude a safeguards agreement with the IAEA.

Three types of safeguards agreements under IAEA:

- Comprehensive safeguards agreements with non-nuclear-weapon State parties to the NPT.
- Voluntary offer safeguards agreements with the nuclear-weapon State parties to the NPT.
- Item-specific safeguards agreements with non-NPT States.

ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL

- The Additional Protocol is not a stand-alone agreement.
- Each of the safeguard agreements may be complemented with an Additional Protocol that includes provisions for information about, and access to, all parts of a State's nuclear fuel cycle, from mines to nuclear waste.
- It provides additional tools for verification.
- It significantly increases the IAEA's ability to verify the peaceful use of all nuclear material in States with comprehensive safeguards agreements.
- As a non-signatory to the NPT, India lacks the comprehensive safeguards that NNWS signatories to NPT have. India's Additional Protocol stipulates that only certain facilities are placed under safeguards.
- India's Additional Protocol applies many of the voluntary safeguards provisions that exist for nuclear weapon states, although India is not recognized by the IAEA as a nuclear weapon state.

SMALL QUANTITIES PROTOCOL

A small quantities protocol may be concluded in conjunction with a comprehensive safeguard's agreement. Small quantities protocols are currently available for States that have minimal or no nuclear material and no nuclear material in a facility.

► INTERNATIONAL PANEL ON FISSILE MATERIALS

The International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM) was founded in January 2006 and is an independent group of arms-control and non-proliferation experts from both nuclear weapon and non-nuclear weapon states.

- The mission of the IPFM is to analyse the technical basis for practical and achievable policy initiatives to secure, consolidate, and reduce stockpiles of highly enriched uranium and plutonium. These fissile materials are the key ingredients in nuclear weapons, and their control is critical to nuclear weapons disarmament, to halting the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and to ensuring that terrorists do not acquire nuclear weapons.
- Both military & civilian stocks of fissile materials must be addressed. The nuclear-weapon states still have enough fissile materials in their weapon stockpiles for tens of thousands of nuclear weapons. On the civilian side, enough plutonium has been separated to make a similarly large number of weapons. Highly enriched uranium is used in civilian reactor fuel in more than one hundred locations. The total amount used for this purpose is sufficient to make about one thousand Hiroshima-type bombs, a design well within the potential capabilities of terrorist groups.
- Its members include nuclear experts from seventeen countries: Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Pakistan, South Korea, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. This group of countries includes seven nuclear-weapon states and ten non-weapon states.

► MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME

- **Mandate:** To Control unmanned aerial vehicles capable of delivering a payload of at least 500 kg to a range of at least 300 km.
- **Indian Membership:** 2016.

► CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

- The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is a multilateral treaty that bans chemical weapons and requires their destruction within a specified period. The treaty is of unlimited duration and is far more comprehensive than the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which

outlaws the use but not the possession of chemical weapons.

- CWC negotiations started in 1980 in the UN Conference on Disarmament.
- The convention entered into force on April 29, 1997.
- Under the Convention's 'challenge inspection' procedure, States Parties have committed themselves to the principle of 'any time, anywhere' inspections with no right of refusal.

STATUS

- The CWC is open to all nations and currently has 193 states-parties.
- Israel has signed but is yet to ratify the convention. Three states have neither signed nor ratified the convention (Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan).

PROHIBITIONS

The Chemical Weapons Convention prohibits:

- Developing, producing, acquiring, stockpiling, or retaining chemical weapons.
- The direct or indirect transfer of chemical weapons.
- Chemical weapons use or military preparation for use.
- Assisting, encouraging, or inducing other states to engage in CWC-prohibited activity.
- The use of riot control agents "as a method of warfare."

ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW)

- The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention. The OPCW, with its 193 Member States, oversees the global endeavor to permanently and verifiably eliminate chemical weapons.
- India is a member of this body. Office of the Cabinet Secretary is the nodal representative of India to this body.

► OPEN SKIES TREATY

Russia has withdrawn from the Open Skies Treaty after the US withdrew from the agreement earlier.

- The treaty is designed to enhance mutual understanding and confidence by giving access to aerial surveillance over the entire territory of the country. The treaty was signed in 1992 in Helsinki. It entered into force in 2002.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

- Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark (including Greenland), Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

IMPORTANT PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY

- Entire territory accessible to aerial observation
- Observation flights to be conducted by unarmed fixed wing aircraft
- Aircraft may be equipped with video cameras and panoramic and framing cameras for daylight photography; infra-red line scanning systems, which can operate by day and night; and synthetic aperture radar, which can operate day and night in any weather.
- Each State Party in Open Skies has agreed to a quota of observation flights which it is willing to accept annually from other States Parties.
- Imagery collected from Open Skies missions is available to any state party upon request for the cost of reproduction. As a result, the data available to each state party is much greater than that which it can collect itself under the treaty quota system

► INF TREATY

US has officially withdrawn from the treaty Russia also withdrew from the treaty.

- US has alleged that Russia is developing the SSC-8 missile that can target Europe, however this is being denied by Russia. US consider this as a violation of the INF treaty.

ABOUT INF TREATY

- INF Treaty required USA and USSR to eliminate and permanently eliminate all their nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 kilometres.
- It exempted for similar sea-based & air-launched missiles.
- INF treaty ban originally applied only to U.S. & USSR, but treaty's membership expanded in 1991 to include successor states of the former Soviet Union.

► NEW START TREATY

It will lapse in February 2021 unless extended for a five-year period. Recently, USA and Russia have agreed to extend the treaty by another 5 years.

- Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) is a treaty between the USA and the Russian Federation on measures for the further reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms. It entered into force in 2011.
- It is a successor to the START framework of 1991 which was signed after Cold War.

► ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT)

Arms Trade Treaty is an international treaty that regulates the international trade in conventional arms and seeks to prevent and eradicate illicit trade and diversion of conventional arms by establishing international standards governing arms transfers.

- The treaty came into force in 2014. Currently, it has 110 State Parties.
- India is not a party of the Agreement. China ratified the Arms Trade Treaty in 2020.

► COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY ORGANISATION (CTBTO)

The executive secretary has invited India to be an observer in the CTBT, and the observer status is not tied to India's ratifying the CTBT.

- The CTBTO Preparatory Commission was established in 1996 with purpose to make necessary preparations so that CTBT can be effectively implemented once the Treaty enters force & CTBTO is established.
- The CTBTO is an independent international organization & has a cooperative mechanism with the United Nations.

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

- It was adopted by the UN General Assembly and opened for signature in 1996.
- It bans nuclear explosions by everyone, everywhere: on the Earth's surface, in the atmosphere, underwater and underground.

- China, North Korea, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan and the US are the remaining Annex 2 countries to either sign and/or ratify the treaty.
- France, UK & Russia have ratified the CTBT, while China & US have signed CTBT but both have yet to ratify it.
- India, North Korea & Pakistan have not signed it.

► BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION, 1972

BTWC was the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning production of an entire category of weapons.

TERMS OF THE TREATY

The BWC bans the development, stockpiling, acquisition, retention and production of:

- Biological agents and toxins of types and in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes.
- Weapons, equipment, and delivery vehicles & designed to use such agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.
- Transfer of or assistance with acquiring the agents, toxins, weapons, equipment, and delivery vehicles described above. All State parties must destroy all such bioweapons upon becoming a member of BTWC.
- Requires states-parties to destroy or divert to peaceful purposes the & agents, toxins, weapons, equipment, and means of delivery; described above within nine months of the convention's entry into force.
- Mandates that states-parties consult with one another and cooperate, bilaterally or multilaterally, to solve compliance concerns. It also allows states-parties to lodge a complaint with the UN Security Council if they believe other member states are violating the convention. The Security Council can investigate complaints, but this power has never been invoked.
- The treaty stands for indefinite period.

NON-CONVENTIONAL SECURITY

► CLIMATE SECURITY MECHANISM

- A joint initiative of UN Department of Political & Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), UNDP and UNEP.
- Established in 2018 with the objective of strengthening the capacity of UN system to analyse and more systematically address the adverse impacts of climate change on peace and security. (Prevention & management of climate-related security risks).

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF CLIMATE SECURITY

MECHANISM

- Technical advice & support are tailored to the conditions & opportunities of each situation.
- Partnerships to enable multidisciplinary approaches to risk analysis, prevention & management.
- Data collection, analysis & response formulation are **gender sensitive** & promote **women's empowerment**.
- Regional, national and local voices ensure local ownership and sustainability efforts.
- Lessons learned from field engagements drive policy and advocacy to ensure evidence-based approaches.

NINE FIELD INITIATIVES UNDER CSM

- Andean States
- Northern Central America
- West Africa & Sahel
- Liptako Gourma Region
- Central Africa
- Sudan
- Somalia
- Arab States
- Horn of Africa

UNSC DRAFT RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- A draft resolution on climate change was introduced in UN Security Council calling for UNSC to integrate climate-related security risk as a central component of UN conflict prevention strategies aiming to help counter the risk of conflict relapse.
- The resolution failed to get adopted as it was vetoed by Russia. India too did not support the resolution as it argued that UNFCCC is more representative forum address the issue of climate change.

► SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

- To counter the trade tensions between China and the United States threatening supply chains **Japan, India and Australia** mooted the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) as a trilateral approach to trade.
- Australia, Japan and India are already part of another informal grouping, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or the Quad, which includes the U.S

► THE CLEAN NETWORK

- It is a U.S. government-led, bi-partisan effort to address what it describes as "the long-term threat to data privacy, security, human rights and principled collaboration posed to the free world from authoritarian malign actors."
- It has resulted in an "alliance of democracies and companies," "based on democratic values."
- According to the United States, The Clean Network is intended to implement internationally accepted digital trust standards across a coalition of trusted partners.
- This alliance of democracies includes 27 of the 30 NATO members; 26 of the 27 EU members, 31 of the 37 OECD nations, 11 of the 12 Three Seas nations as well as Japan, Israel, Australia, Singapore, Taiwan, Canada, Vietnam, **India**, and New Zealand.
- Additional "clean initiatives" have been announced—Clean Path, Clean Carrier, Clean Store, Clean App, Clean Cable, and Clean Cloud

► PRAGUE PROPOSALS

- In May 2019, government officials from more than 30 countries across the globe, alongside representatives from the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and industry, participated in discussions regarding the important national security, economic, and commercial considerations that must be part of each country's evaluation of 5G vendors.
- The resulting Prague Proposals on 5G security published by the Czech conference chair serve as a set of recommendations and principles for nations to consider as they design, construct, and administer their 5G infrastructure.

► DIGITAL TRUST STANDARD

- The **Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)** assembled a group of 25 experts from

Asian, European, and U.S. companies and research centres.

- The group produced a set of "Criteria for Security and Trust in Telecommunications Networks and Services" that are believed to provide governments and network operators additional tools to evaluate trustworthiness and security of equipment and suppliers, in tandem with the European Union's 5G Toolbox and the Prague Proposals.

► EU 5G CYBERSECURITY TOOLBOX

- The 5G cybersecurity Toolbox was released by the **European Commission with EU Member States**. At the time of release the EC noted that European 5G suppliers are likely to comply with its directives.
- The Toolbox provides definitions and measurements on how to avoid the use of "high-risk" suppliers in the network.

► D 10 NATIONS

- British PM Boris Johnson has proposed to convert the UK-hosted G7 into its expanded D10 form – something that several think tanks including the Washington-based Atlantic Council had been promoting for several years.
- In its expanded form, **India, South Korea and Australia will join the other G7 countries** that include the US, Italy, France, Japan, Germany, Canada and the UK.

► BLUE DOT MECHANISM

- Jointly launched by the US, Japan (Japanese Bank for International Cooperation) and Australia (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) in 2019 on the sidelines of 35th ASEAN Summit in Thailand.
- The initiative is not intended to be a financing pipeline. Instead, it will evaluate infrastructure projects according to standards set by a steering committee of government agencies, development finance institutions and the private sector. Worthy projects will be awarded a Blue Dot, piecing together a global map of quality infrastructure undertakings.
- It is meant to be a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to bring governments, the private sector and civil society together to promote "high quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development".
- The network is "**ratings mechanism**" that would grade infrastructure projects in the Indo-Pacific region on different parameters to ensure transparency and is seen as a counterbalance to China's extensive Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- However, unlike the BRI, the BDN would not offer public funds or loans for the project. Moreover, with no ASEAN leaders picking up the cause so far, it does not look like the network will gain much traction in the region.
- India is neither part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) nor the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. It is also absent from the Indo-Pacific Business Forum created by the U.S., Japan and Australia as is from the Blue Dot network.

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS

► PYONGYANG JOINT DECLARATION

Two years since North Korea and South Korea signed the Pyongyang Joint Declaration on September 19, which focused on diffusing military tensions between the two countries, among other issues, Seoul and Pyongyang have found themselves in a diplomatic deadlock with no progress in denuclearisation talks between North Korea and the US.

- The Pyongyang Joint Declaration is an agreement signed by North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un and South Korea's President Moon Jae-in in 2018 during the Inter-Korean Summit Meeting in Pyongyang.
- Some, long-standing issues between the two countries were addressed in this agreement.
- The two sides agreed to implement the **Panmunjom Declaration** that had been signed in April that year and agreed to closer communication to prevent military clashes along the Demilitarized zone.
- Notably, the Korean War has been going on for 68 years.



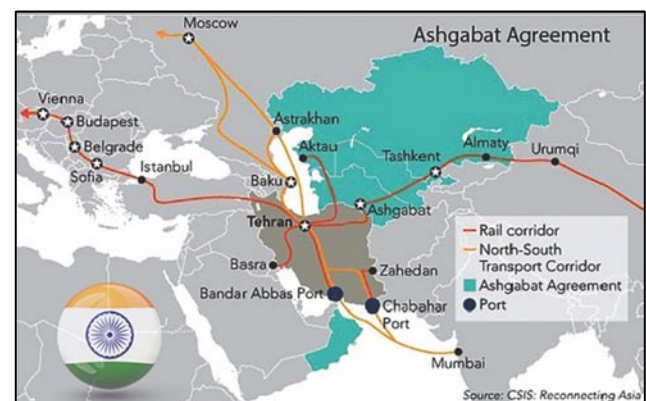
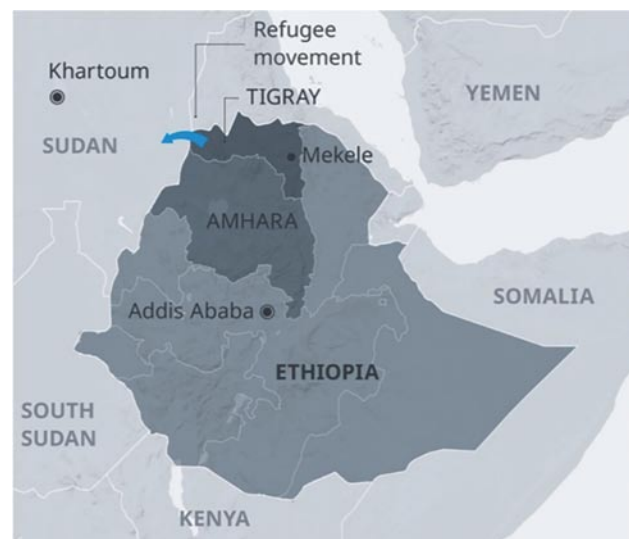
- The agreement also focussed on the **denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula** with North Korea agreeing to permanently dismantle the **Dongchang-ri missile engine test site** and launch platform.
- At that time, Pyongyang had offered to implement additional measures, including the permanent **dismantlement of nuclear facilities in Yeongbyeon**, North Korea.
- The **38th parallel latitude** divides the two Koreas on the peninsula.

► ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT

Ethiopian government led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed started a military operation against an insurgent group **Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)** which is a militia cum political party which dominates northern Tigray region of Ethiopia. There is a risk of it snowballing into an ethnic civil war with regional implications.

Certain Facts:

- There is an armed struggle going on between Tigray region of Ethiopia and Ethiopia's government led by Mr Abiy who come from Oromo ethnic group.
- Mekele is the seat of power of Tigray people's TPLF.
- Addis Ababa is capital of Ethiopia.



- The objective of this agreement is to enhance connectivity within Eurasian region and synchronize it with other transport corridors within that region including the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- India formally joined in February 2018.

► HONG KONG CRISIS

The main crux of the tension is about the *right to universal suffrage* in selecting the highest governing personnel in Hong Kong, whereby it is the Chinese government that nominates individuals who then can stand for Chief Executive. China wants its control on the nominations process wherein China nominates only Pro-Chinese government individuals that do not criticize Chinese policies in Hong Kong. The pro-democracy activists prefer a more direct election process.

ABOUT HONG KONG

- It is on the **eastern side of the Pearl River estuary in southern China**.
- It is the wealthiest region in South China & the largest urban area in the world in both size and population.

► ROHINGYA CRISIS

- Rohingya are an ethnic group from Myanmar, mostly Muslims, who are based in Rakhine province of West Myanmar.
- Myanmar has not granted them full citizenship and they are classified as "resident foreigners" or as "associate citizens."
- They speak a dialect of Bengali as against Burmese. They left Myanmar in large numbers, first in 2012, during the first wave of organised attack against them by the Burmese army.
- The attacks revived in 2016-17 when lakhs took shelter in Cox's Bazaar area of Bangladesh whereby Cox Bazaar is now the World's largest refugee camp.



► LIBYA CRISIS

India has evacuated its entire peacekeeping CRPF contingent from Tripoli in Libya.

- Anti-government protests in Libya began on February 15, 2011, leading to civil war between opposition forces and Muammar Gaddafi loyalists.
- Libya is a mostly desert and oil-rich country in northern Africa.
- Libya has the largest oil reserve in Africa and one of the largest oil producers in the world.

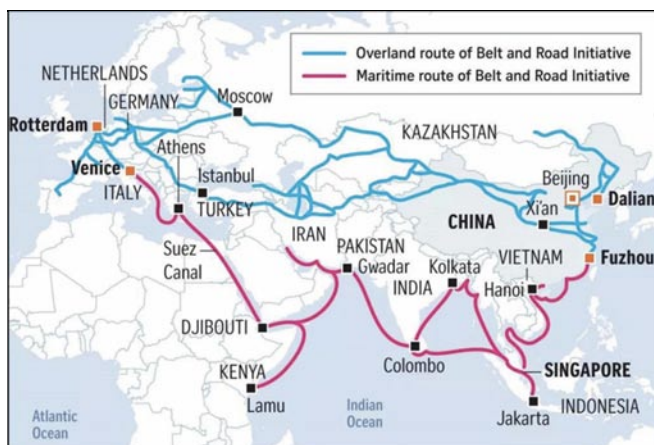


INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

► BELT & ROAD INITIATIVE

Second Belt and Road forum was held in Beijing to discuss infrastructure project Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which began in 2013.

- BRI is a development strategy adopted by the Chinese government involving infrastructure development and investments in across Europe, Asia, Middle East, Latin America and Africa.
- "Belt" refers to the overland routes for road and rail transportation, called "the Silk Road Economic Belt"; whereas "road" refers to the sea routes, or the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.
- It was known as the One Belt One Road (OBOR) until 2016.
- The trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been promoted as global public good as it would focus on common development of all the participating countries and their people.
- BRI is considered as an international club without formal members. The BRI is not a multilateral organisation and has no protocol for admitting members. It is also not a trade pact that imposes clear rules on participants in return for trade benefits.
- By signing a MOU, a country does not become a 'member' of the BRI, nor does it necessarily become entitled to the construction of China-funded infrastructure projects.
- Italy is the first of the G7 group of industrialised nations who endorsed China's BRI by signing a MoU with China.



BELT AND ROAD FORUM

- The first meeting of Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, or BRFC was held in 2017.

- Its purpose is to build a more open and efficient international cooperation platform for working out action plans for implementation of the initiative in the areas of infrastructure, energy and resources, production capacity, trade and investment and identification of major projects.

► CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CPEC)

- India's hesitation in embracing the China-led BRI is the projection of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a flagship project.
- The CPEC is expected to connect Kashgar in China's restive province of Xinjiang with the Gwadar port in the volatile Baluchistan province of Pakistan.
- It will pass through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Gilgit-Baltistan—both Indian territories occupied by Pakistan. This is at the core of India's doubts about China's sincerity in seeking its collaboration.



► CHINA-MYANMAR ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

It is recently proposed by China and has been touted as a flagship project of Beijing's BRI in Myanmar.

- CMEC includes infrastructure projects of connectivity such as roads, railways, electric power and energy based on three pillars, namely,
 1. KyaukPhyu Special Economic Zone,
 2. Myanmar-China Border Economic Cooperation Zones, and
 3. New urban development of Yangon City

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

- Among the major infrastructure projects under consideration are the development of a special economic zone and a deep-sea port at Kyaukpyu. And the construction of a railway line from the China border to Mandalay in central Myanmar.
- CMEC holds great significance for China whose landlocked Yunnan Province needs access to the Indian Ocean and thereby also resolve China's 'Malacca dilemma'.
- A dual pipeline between Kyaukphyu and Kunming is already functional and China is also forming a SEZ in Kyaukphyu, Myanmar.
- Myitsone Dam is a part of this project which was proposed across Irrawaddy River.



► CHINA-NEPAL ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CNEC)



- China-Nepal Economic Corridor (CNEC) connects Tibet to Nepal and knocks at the doors of the Gangetic plain. Phase one of the project is expected to get the railway across from Gyirong on the Tibetan side to Rasuwaghadhi in Nepal and from there to Kathmandu.

In a planned second phase, China and Nepal would like to extend it to Lumbini.

- In 2017, Nepal signed up to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), that sought to create highways, airports and other infrastructure in the country.

► MALAYSIA RAIL PROJECT

- Malaysia has resumed work on the multi-million-dollar East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) after long negotiations with the China while the latter has brought the cost down by a third.
- The railway will connect towns from Malaysia's northeast near the Thai border and along the South China Sea with Port Klang on the Strait of Malacca, providing a crucial land route for freight between Port Klang and Kuantan where China is developing a major port. The distance is approximately 640 kms.
- It will be part of Chinese BRI.



► BANGLADESH-CHINA-INDIA-MYANMAR ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (BCIM)

- BCIM corridor was formally given shape first in the Kunming Meet in China (2013) and then in Cox's Bazar Meet in Bangladesh (2014).



- It included connectivity projects linking Kunming in China's Yunnan province with Mandalay in Myanmar, then India's Northeast and then to Dhaka in Bangladesh before heading to Kolkata, India.
- However, post-2014, due to India's stand on CPEC and non-participation in BRF, BCIM has not been undertaken as means of Sub-regionalism and the focus now has shifted to Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN).
- Hence, now China has excluded BCIM economic corridor from the list of projects covered by BRI.

► **INTERNATIONAL NORTH-SOUTH TRANSPORT CORRIDOR (INSTC)**

- INSTC is the shortest multimodal transportation route linking the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf via Iran to Russia and Europe.



- It was initiated by Russia, India and Iran in September 2000 to establish transportation networks among the member states and to enhance connectivity with the land locked region of Central Asia.
- The North-South Transport Corridor is an ancient route that connected South Asia with North Europe for centuries.

- It will reduce time taken and cost for transport of goods between India and Eurasia once fully functional and increase economic activities between India and the resource-rich Russia as well as markets of Europe.

► **CHABAHAR PORT**

IRANIAN OVERVIEW

- Located in **Gulf of Oman**, near Iran's border with Pakistan.
- Serves as Iran's only major oceanic port because it is the only major port of Iran that lies beyond the **Strait of Hormuz** and has direct access to Indian Ocean.

AFGHAN OVERVIEW

- Chabahar port in Iran connects to Afghanistan at the **Zaranj and Delaram highway**. Chabahar port to Deleram is approx. 1800 km.
- This highway then links it to the Afghan 'garland road' or 'Ring Road' that connects the major Afghan cities of Herat, Kandahar, Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif.



INDIAN OVERVIEW

- Chabahar port is the nearest Iranian port to India, which is at approx. 1020km from Kandla port, Gujarat or 1560km from Mumbai.
- The port also serves as the nearest port entry, after Pakistani ports, for India into Central Asia.
- Chabahar Port also provides direct access to India's Farkhor Air Base in Tajikistan.

► **KALADAN MULTIMODAL TRANSIT TRANSPORT PROJECT**

- The project includes a waterways component of 158 km on Kaladan River from Sittwe to Paletwa in Myanmar and a road component of 109 km from Paletwa to Zorinpui on the India-Myanmar border in Mizoram.



- The waterways component comprises Sittwe Port, Inland Water Transport (IWT) terminals, backup facilities and navigational channel.
- The project is being implemented with GoI's grant assistance under the head of 'Aid to Myanmar'.

► INDIA-MYANMAR-THAILAND TRILATERAL HIGHWAY

- It is a highway under construction under India's Look East policy that will connect Moreh, India with Mae Sot, Thailand via Myanmar.
- India has also proposed extending the highway to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. The proposed approx. 3,200 km (2,000 mi) route from India to Vietnam is known as the East-West Economic Corridor (Thailand to Cambodia and Vietnam became operational in 2015).



IMPORTANT TRADE ROUTES



► MOTIHARI-AMLEKHGUNJ PIPELINE



- It is South Asia's first cross-border petroleum products pipeline from Motihari (in Bihar) in India to Amlekhgunj in Nepal which is inaugurated by PM of India and Nepal by video conference.
- The 69-km pipeline has a capacity of 2 million metric ton per annum.
- It will provide cleaner petroleum products at affordable cost to the people of Nepal. It will reduce the price of petroleum products by Rs. 2 per litre in Nepal.

► POWER OF SERBIA GAS PIPELINE

- **Russia and China** have inaugurated the cross-border gas pipeline, the "Power of Siberia".
- Under this project, Russia will deliver 1 trillion cubic meters of natural gas to China over the next 30 years.
- Russia has been a primary gas supplier to Europe, but the Power of Siberia is the first cross-border gas pipeline between Russia and China, adding a prominent eastern dimension to Moscow's energy blueprint.
- Gas is being sourced from Chayandinskoye and Kovytko fields in eastern Siberia and is then piped to Blagoveshchensk — the last town on the Russian side of the border.

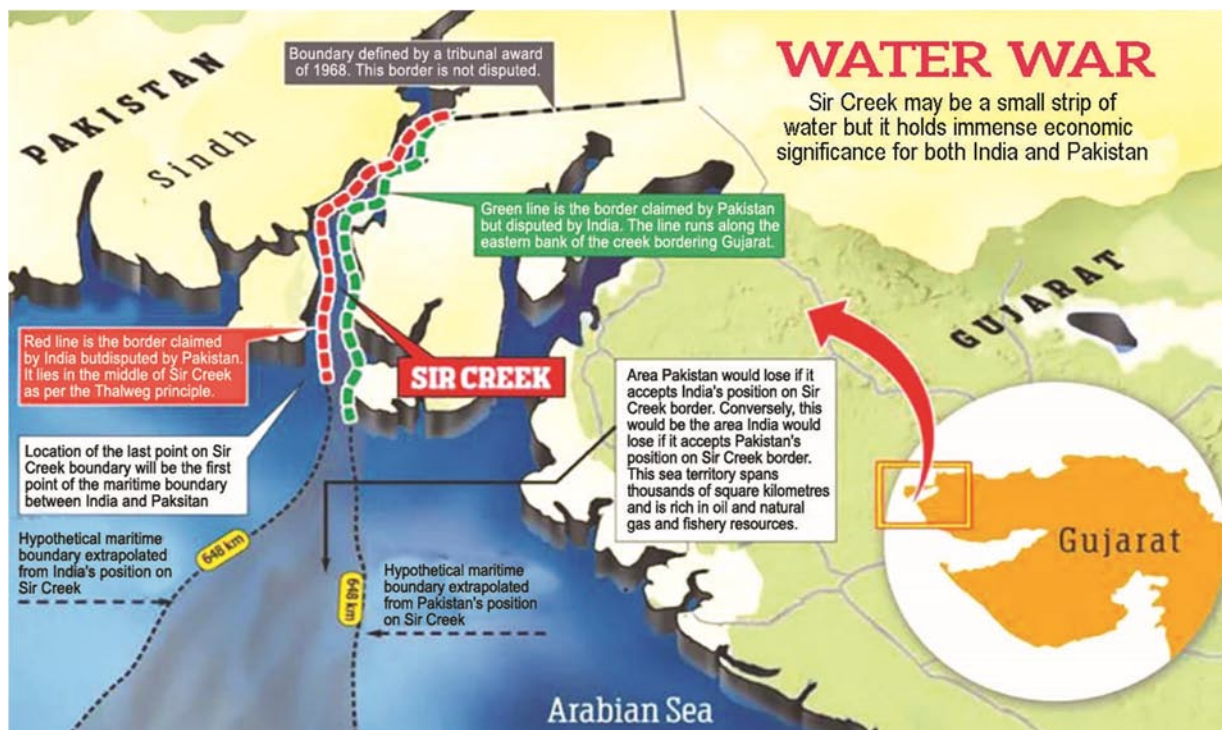
- From there, it is tunnelled under the Amur River, before entering Heihe on the Chinese side.



POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

► NEW POLITICAL MAP OF PAKISTAN

- On the eve of the first anniversary of the withdrawal of Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 and its bifurcation into Union territories, Pakistan released a new political map which depicts J&K as a disputed territory and claims the regions of Sir Creek and the erstwhile state of Junagadh in Gujarat as part of its territory.



► PANGONG TSO

The Indian Army had successfully thwarted attempts by the Chinese troops move to change the status quo on the South Bank of Pangong Tso.

ABOUT PANGONG LAKE

- Pangong Tso is an **endorheic lake (landlocked)** that is **partly in India's Ladakh region and partly in Tibet**. The name reflects the mixed heritage of the lake: Pangong in Ladakhi means extensive concavity, the word Tso is Tibetan for lake.
- Situated at an elevation of about 4,270 m, it is a 135-km long, narrow lake — 6 km at its widest point — and shaped **liked a boomerang**. Its total area is over 600 sq km.



- The Karakoram Mountain range, which crosses Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and India, with heights of over 6,000 m including K2, the world's second highest peak, **ends at the north bank of Pangong Tso**. Its southern bank too has high broken

mountains sloping towards Spangur Lake in the south.

- The lake's water, while crystal clear, is brackish, making it undrinkable. The lake freezes during the winter, allowing some vehicular movement on it as well
- Galvan Valley: This river originates in Chinese controlled Aksai Chin region belonging to India and flows into India's territory. It is a tributary of Shyok river. Shyok river is a tributary of Indus River.

► **EAST CONTAINER TERMINAL AT COLOMBO**

Sri Lanka has said that it will develop the West Container Terminal (WCT) at the Colombo Port, along with India and Japan. The decision comes a month after the Rajapaksa government rejected the two partners from a 2019 tripartite agreement to jointly develop the East Container Terminal (ECT), citing resistance to "foreign involvement".

The Importance of India having a terminal at Colombo port:

- This port was strategic for India since it was adjacent to the Chinese-run Colombo International Container Terminal (CICT).
- More than two-thirds of trans-shipment at this port is tied to India, making it an important trade and connectivity link.

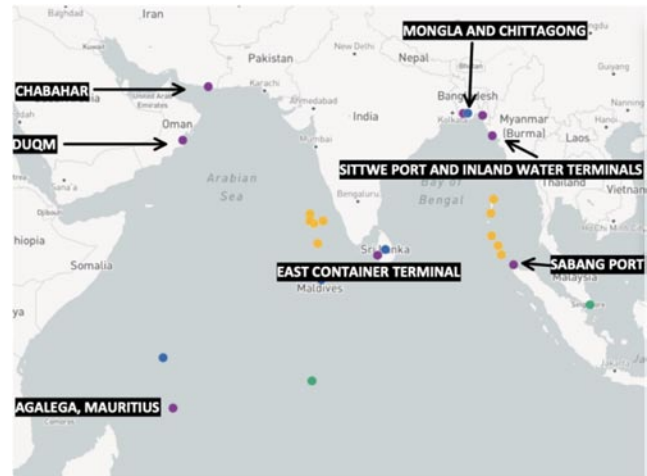
COLOMBO PORT TERMINALS



INDIAN AND CHINESE PORTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION

- Based on the theory of string of pearls in the Indian Ocean, China is investing in strategically important foreign commercial ports.

- Some of these ports include Chittagong in Bangladesh, Gwadar in Pakistan, Hambantota in Sri Lanka, Kyaupkyu in Myanmar, Malacca in Malaysia, Mombasa in Kenya. China has also taken formed its only foreign military base in Djibouti, Somalia.
- As a response India has presence in the ports shown in the picture below.



► **AYN AL ASAD AND ERBIL**

- Iran had fired rockets at two military bases in Iraq hosting American troops amid escalating tensions between Tehran and Washington.
- The missiles hit two bases Ayn al-Asad in Anbar province and a facility in Erbil.



► **SOME IMPORTANT MAPS**

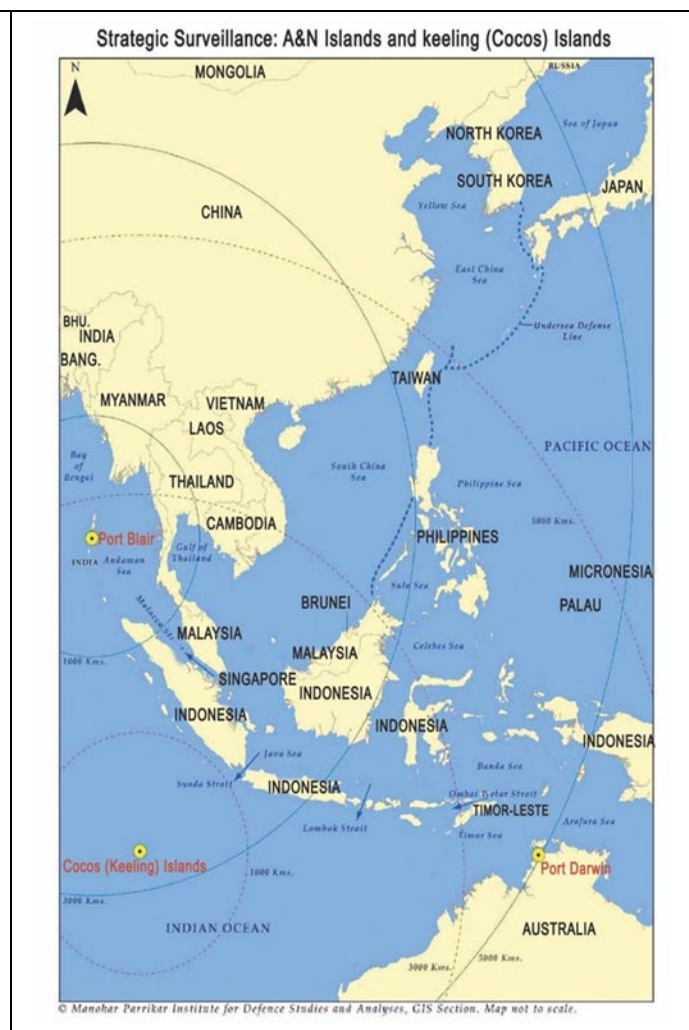
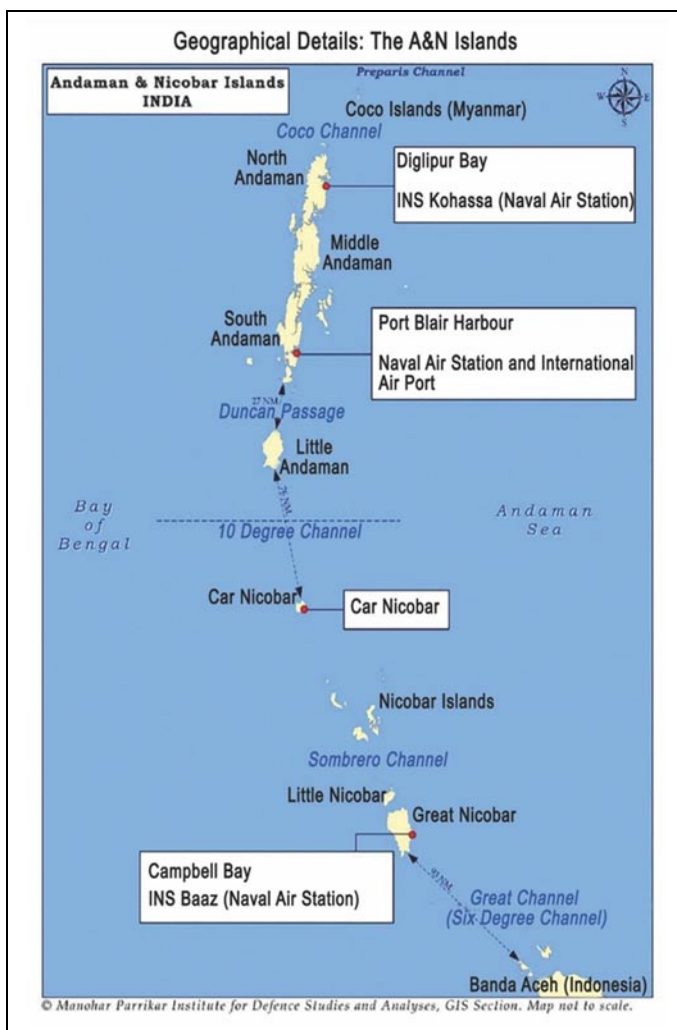
STRATEGIC LOCATION OF ANDAMAN & NICOBAR

- Andaman and Nicobar Islands are a group of 572 islands. They lie at the juncture of the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea.
- The territory is about 150 km north of Aceh (in Sumatra) in Indonesia and separated from Thailand and Myanmar by the Andaman Sea.

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

- The Andaman Islands (partly) and the Nicobar Islands, separated by the 150 km wide **Ten Degree Channel** (on the 10°N parallel).
- The Andaman Sea lies to the east and the Bay of Bengal to the west.
- The islands host the **Andaman and Nicobar Command, the only tri-service geographical command of the Indian Armed Forces.**
- **Preparis Channel & Six Degree Channel** are located to the north and south of the Island chain, respectively
- All these passages are important trade routes for any shipping destined for Southeast and East Asia.
- The **Six Degree and Ten Degree Channels** in the Andaman Sea which **lead to the Malacca Strait** are **vital to the sea lanes of communication (SLOCs)** along which flows global commerce, including energy trade, between Asia, Africa and Pacific.

- China has been operating in the **Coco islands of Myanmar** since 2009.
- India's concerns about Chinese activity in the eastern Indian Ocean are exacerbated by its belief that China will eventually build a canal across the **Isthmus of Kra in Thailand**, giving Chinese vessels a relatively direct route into the Indian Ocean.
- China has developed new bases, including at Gwadar, Djibouti and Hambantota.



► **GLOBAL STRATEGIC CHOKE**

POINTS

They have come into limelight because of the blockage of the Suez Canal by a container vessel.

1. SUEZ CANAL



2. BAB EL MANDEB



3. STRAIT OF HORMUZ



4. MALACCA STRAIT



5. PANAMA CANAL



7. DANISH STRAITS








6. STRAIT OF BOSPORUS (TURKISH STRAIT)

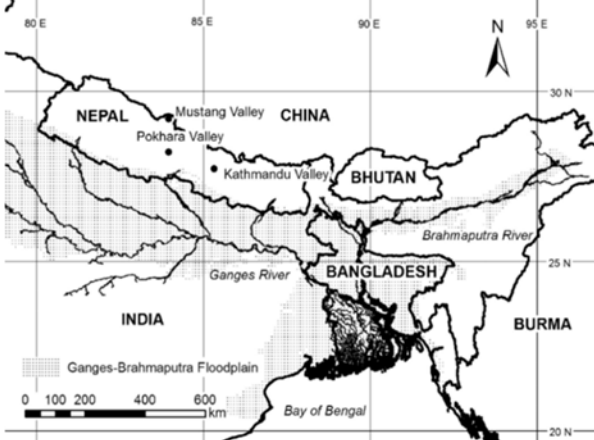




► **SOUTH ASIA / SOUTHEAST ASIA**

PLACES IN NEWS	REGIONS RELATED FACTS	MAP
<p>→ EAST KALIMANTAN PROVINCE</p> <p><i>Indonesia to set up its new capital from megacity of Jakarta to the East Kalimantan province of Borneo Island.</i></p> <p>It stated it to be a strategic location at the center of Indonesia, close to growing urban area.</p>	<p>Borneo Island, Indonesia</p> <p>Note: Borneo is the third-largest island in the world and the largest in Asia.</p> <p>It is not equally among three countries: Malaysia and Brunei in the north, and Indonesia to the south</p>	 <p>The as-yet unnamed new capital will straddle the regions of North Penajam Paser and Kutai Kartanegara.</p>
<p>→ DAMS ON BRAHMAPUTRA</p> <p>China also intends to undertake gigantic water diversion projects which include building a dam on the Great Bend of Yarlung, where the river curves into the Assamese plains of India.</p> <p>China has completed the Zangmu Dam and three more dams at Dagu, Jiacha and Jeixu are at present under construction.</p>	<p>China, India and Bangladesh</p> <p>Yarlung Tsangpo enters India after passing the Great Bend, through Arunachal Pradesh as Siang/Dihang, then onto Assam as Brahmaputra, and finally to Bangladesh as Jamuna.</p>	 <p>1 JIEXU 2 ZANGMU 3 JIACHA</p>
<p>→ CHATTOGRAM AND MONGLA PORTS</p> <p><i>India and Bangladesh have signed pact to use Chattogram and Mongla ports to serve the needs of north-east states</i></p>	<p>India and Bangladesh</p> <p>India shares longest border with Bangladesh.</p> <p>Bordering States: West Bengal, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Assam.</p>	

PLACES IN NEWS	REGIONS RELATED FACTS	MAP
<p>→KALAPANI AREA</p> <p><i>New political map released by the Govt. of India caused uproar in Nepal</i></p> <p>A tri-junction point, where the Indian, Nepalese and Tibetan (Chinese) borders meet.</p> <p>The region has been manned by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police since 1962.</p>	<p>India and Nepal</p> <p>River Mahakali or River Kali, also known as Sharda River flows through the area.</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>Nepal bordering states are Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh (largest area), Sikkim, West Bengal and Bihar.</p>	
<p>→KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA</p> <p><i>Pakistan has declared PanjTirath, the Hindu religious site in Peshawar as national heritage.</i></p> <p>→BALUCH LIBERATION ARMY</p> <p><i>U.S. designated the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) as a terror organisation, which targets security forces and civilians, in ethnic Baloch areas of Pakistan.</i></p>	<p>India and Pakistan</p> <p>Baluchistan: bordered by Iran, Afghanistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab province, Sindh province and the Arabian Sea.</p>	
<p>→MANGDECHHU HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANT, BHUTAN</p> <p><i>Recently inaugurated by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi.</i></p> <p>It is one of the major projects under Bhutan's initiative to generate 10,000 MW hydropower by 2020 with the support of the Government of India (GOI).</p>	<p>India and Bhutan</p>	





PLACES IN NEWS	REGIONS RELATED FACTS	MAP
<p>→KARTARPURCORIDOR <i>Connects Dera Baba Nanak village in Gurdaspur, India to Gurudwara Darbar Singh Kartarpur, Pakistan.</i> Gurudwara is located on the bank of river Ravi in Pakistan. The place where Guru Nanak ji ascended to God. Guru ka Langer tradition started in Kartarpur.</p>	<p>India and Pakistan (Kartarpur lies in Punjab Province of Pakistan)</p>	
<p>→KHASH - ZAHEDAN <i>Several individuals of the Revolutionary Guards were killed in a terrorist attack in the Khash-Zahedan sector of Sistan-Baluchistan province located near the Iran - Pakistan border.</i> Zahedan hosts the Chabahar - Zahedan railway line being built by India.</p>	<p>Afghanistan India is finalising a plan to construct a 900-km Chabahar-Zahedan-Hajigak railway line that will connect Port of Chabahar in Iran, being built with Indian help, to the mineral-rich Hajigak region of Afghanistan.</p>	
<p>→NANKANA SAHIB <i>The gurdwara in Pakistan was vandalised by few goons.</i> It is the birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev, founder of Sikhism.</p>	<p>Pakistan It is 75 kms to the west of Lahore and is the capital of Nankana Sahib district. The city was previously known as Talwandi</p>	
<p>→UIGHUR MUSLIMS <i>Around a million Uighurs Muslims have been bundled into 'de-radicalisation camps' in China where they are detained and subjected to ideological reorientation.</i> Ethnically Turkic in origin and follow the Sunni sect of Islam. Have closer affinities to Central Asian ethnic groups thereby differentiating them from the majority Han ethnic group of China.</p>	<p>Xinjiang, China Xinjiang is the largest and most western of China's administrative regions, surrounded by Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.</p>	

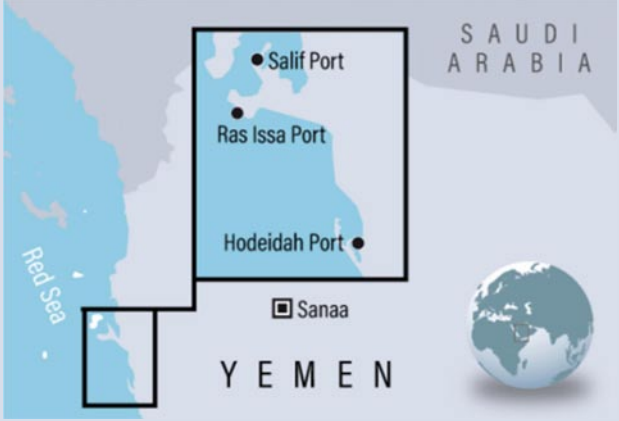


PLACES IN NEWS	REGIONS RELATED FACTS	MAP
<p>→MUSTANG REGION</p> <p><i>The Upper Mustang region in Nepal (bordering China) may have large deposits of uranium.</i></p>	<p>Nepal</p>	
<p>→BHASAN CHAR ISLAND</p> <p>Silt island in Bangladesh built to accommodate Rohingya Muslims who have fled waves of violent persecution.</p>	<p>Bangladesh</p>	
<p>→FENI RIVER</p> <p><i>The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for a MoU between India and Bangladesh on the withdrawal of 1.82 cusecs of water from the Feni River by India for a drinking water supply scheme for Tripura.</i></p> <p>Feni River forms part of the India-Bangladesh border.</p>	<p>India And Bangladesh</p>	

PLACES IN NEWS	REGIONS RELATED FACTS	MAP
<p>→SIACHEN GLACIER <i>The world's highest battlefield, Siachen Glacier, is now open for tourists.</i></p> <p>The glacier is at the height of around 20,000 feet in Karakoram range.</p> <p>It is known as the highest militarised zone in world. It has been a bone of contention between India and Pakistan. Indian Army has gained strategic control of glacier in 1984 following 'Operation Meghdoot'. Prior to 1984 neither India nor Pakistan had any permanent presence in the area.</p>	<p>J&K (India)</p>	

► WEST ASIA/MIDDLE EAST

<p>→GOLAN HEIGHTS, WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP</p> <p>US drops the term Israeli-occupied from references to the Golan Heights, West Bank and Gaza</p> <p><i>U.S. Says Israeli Settlements in West Bank Do Not Violate International Law.</i></p> <p><i>US has asserted to fully recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights.</i></p> <p>Note: The Golan - like the West Bank and Gaza Strip, territories also taken by Israel in the June 1967 conflict - is regarded internationally as occupied under a U.N. Security Council resolution passed later that year.</p>	<p>Israel and Palestine</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>Gaza Strip is a self-governing Palestinian territory on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, which borders Egypt on the southwest for 11 kilometers and Israel on the east and north</p> <p>Golan Heights is a fertile plateau which lies to the north and east of the Sea of Galilee.</p> <p>West Bank is a landlocked territory near the Mediterranean coast of Western Asia, bordered by Jordan to the east and Israel on the south, west and north.</p>	
--	--	--



<p>→RAQQA, DEIREZZOR AND BAGHOUZ</p> <p><i>The Syrian Democratic Forces, Kurdish led rebel group assisted by United States have reduced ISIS to Baghouz, the Eastern Syrian village. This follows removal of ISIS controlled areas of Raqqa and DeirEzzor.</i></p>	<p>Syria</p>	
<p>→MANBIJ</p> <p><i>Turkey and United States intend to create a safe zone between the Kurdish controlled Syrian border with Turkey.</i></p> <p>The Kurds are the indigenous groups in the Middle East and the region's fourth-largest ethnic group. They are Sunni Muslims.</p> <p>→IDLIB</p> <p><i>Idlib is the last province that is rebel-held and stands in way of ending of the nine-year-long Syrian civil war.</i></p>	<p>Syria</p>	
<p>→ABQAIQ and KHURAI</p> <p><i>Tensions in the Middle East surged following attacks on two major oil facilities in Saudi Arabia at Abqaiq and Khurais. Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed responsibility.</i></p>	<p>Saudi Arabia</p>	
<p>→ERBIL</p> <p><i>The capital of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in Iraq.</i></p> <p>It is among the largest cities of Iraq.</p>	<p>Iraq</p>	

<p>→HODEIDAH, SALIF AND RAS-ISSA</p> <p><i>Port cities in Yemen.</i></p>	<p>Yemen</p>	
<p>→STRAIT OF HORMUZ</p> <p><i>The tensions between Iran and U.S. have raised concerns over the maritime security of Strait of Hormuz.</i></p> <p>Strait of Hormuz channel links the Persian Gulf (west) with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea (southeast).</p> <p>It separates Iran (north) from the Arabian Peninsula. It contains the islands of Qeshm, Hormuz, and Hengam.</p>	<p>A narrow waterway in the Middle East</p>	
<p>→PORT OF DUQM</p> <p><i>India has secured access to key strategic Port of Duqm in Oman in Arabian sea for military use and logistical support.</i></p> <p>The Port of Duqm is situated on the southeastern seaboard of Oman, overlooking the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.</p> <p>It is strategically located, near the Chabahar port in Iran.</p>	<p>Oman</p>	
<p>→RAS TANURA PORT</p>	<p>Saudi Arabia</p>	<p>This place was attacked by Iran backed Houthi rebels from Yemen.</p>
<p>→ATBARA</p>	<p>Sudan</p>	<p>Location of civil unrest</p>
<p>→ARAK, NATANZ AND FORDOW</p>	<p>Iran</p>	<p>Nuclear facility in Iran. In news because of JCPOA.</p>
<p>→AL-AQSA MOSQUE</p>	<p>Located in Old city of Jerusalem, Israel</p>	<p>Considered to be third holiest site in Islam after Mecca and Medina. It is located in close proximity of Second Temple, the</p>


		<p>holiest site of Judaism. Hence, a flash point of Israeli-Palestine conflict. The site has been in news due to Abraham Accords which plan to open the Mosque to all faiths and not just for muslims.</p>
--	--	--

► **INDIAN OCEAN REGION**

<p>→ GREAT CHANNEL</p> <p>Separates Great Nicobar Island of India and Aceh Province of Indonesia.</p> <p>Located at six degrees north of equator and is popularly referred to as the 'Six Degree Channel'.</p> <p>Also Located at the western edge of the Malacca Strait.</p>	<p>Indian Ocean Region</p>	
<p>→ CHAGOS ISLANDS (DIEGO GARCIA)</p> <p>ICJ advises Britain to return Diego Garcia to Mauritius.</p> <p>Prior to independence, Mauritius had agreed in the 1965 agreement with UK for separation of the Chagos archipelago.</p> <p>Thereafter, UK had leased Diego Garcia to the US and the US had formed its Indian Ocean military base.</p>	<p>Mauritius</p> <p>Indian Ocean</p>	

<p>→COLOMBO, NEGOMBO AND BATTICALOA</p> <p><i>The Easter Day Bombings were conducted here.</i></p> <p>Colombo & Negombo on western coast are Buddhist majority region, while Batticaloa & Sainthamaruthu on East coast of Sri Lanka are Tamil majority region.</p> <p>→SAINTHAMARUTH</p> <p><i>Suicide bombers were killed in an encounter by Sri Lankan forces.</i></p> <p>Sainthamaruthu is Muslim majority towns in Sri Lanka.</p>	<p>Sri Lanka</p> <p>Indian Ocean region</p>	
<p>→VANILLA ISLANDS</p> <p><i>Affiliation of the island nations Seychelles, Madagascar, Reunion, Mauritius, Comoros, Mayotte in the Indian Ocean to promote tourism.</i></p> <p>Defined under the aegis of the Indian Ocean Commission.</p>	<p>Southwestern Indian Ocean.</p>	

▶ PACIFIC OCEAN REGION

<p>→SOLOMON ISLANDS AND KIRIBATI ISLANDS</p> <p>Solomon and Kiribati Island nations have ended diplomatic relations with Taiwan in favor of China.</p>	<p>Pacific Ocean Island nations</p>	
---	-------------------------------------	--

→BOUGAINVILLE

The voters of the autonomous region of Bougainville have voted in favor of becoming a separate nation, enabling the troubled islands to become the world's newest nation.
Buka is the main town of Bougainville.

Papua New Guinea
South-western Pacific Ocean



→KURIL ISLANDS

Russia & Japan have undertaken several Confidence Building Measures to resolve the Kurile Island dispute.
All of them are under Russian jurisdiction but Japan claims four islands: Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and Habomai as its Northern territories.

Pacific Ocean
A volcanic archipelago of some 56 islands from Japan's Hokkaido to Russia's Kamchatka in the Sea of Okhotsk in East Asia.



► EURASIA

→VLADIVOSTOK, Russia

India participated in the 5th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) as the Chief Guest which is meant to support economic development of Russia's Far East and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

India and Russia

Note: Russian Far East is a region in North Asia which includes the Russian part of the Far East, the easternmost territory of Russia, between Lake Baikal in Eastern Siberia and the Pacific Ocean.



<p>→ LITHUANIA, LATVIA & ESTONIA</p> <p>Vice President of India embarked on a 1st ever high-level visit (from India) to 3 Baltic countries.</p>	<p>Baltic countries</p> <p>(North-eastern region of Europe on the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea).</p>	
--	---	--

► **EAST ASIAN SEA**

<p>→ SENKAKU/ DIAOYU ISLANDS DISPUTE</p> <p>China and Taiwan claim the Senkaku islands as part of Chinese territory since the 16th century. However, the Japanese claim that when the island was surveyed by them in the 1800's, it was uninhabited and showed no signs of Chinese occupation.</p>	<p>East Asia Sea</p> <p>Senkaku islands contain fishing areas and possible natural resources like oil, gas, and mineral deposits.</p> <p>It would give the country strategic control in East Asia sea.</p>	
<p>→ PANMUNJOM VILLAGE</p> <p><i>US President met North Korean leader at border village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone, South Korea and agreed to resume stalled nuclear talks.</i></p> <p>Joint Security Area (also referred to as the Truce Village) is the only portion of the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) where North and South Korean forces stand face-to-face.</p> <p>It follows latitude 38° N (the 38th parallel), the original demarcation line between North Korea and South Korea at the end of World War II.</p>	<p>North Korea</p>	

► **SOUTH CHINA SEA**

Japan recently voted to rename an area including islands disputed with China and Taiwan in the South China Sea. It

has renamed Senkaku Islands -- known by Taiwan and China as the Diaoyus -- from "Tonoshiro" to "Tonoshiro Senkaku".



DISPUTED ISLANDS	CLAIMANT COUNTRY
Senkaku Island	China & Japan
Spartly Island	China & Philippines; Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei too claim parts of the island Chain
Scarborough Shoal	China & Philippines
Parcel Island	China and Vietnam

- More than \$5 trillion of world trade ships pass through the SCS every year. The SCS is also resource rich, with numerous offshore oil and gas blocks.
- South China Sea has emerged as the geopolitical center of gravity. China has claimed 90% of the area with its conception of **9-dash line**.
- Japan has increased its presence because of disputed **Senkaku/Diaoyu** Island. Philippines, Vietnam have emerged as regional players asserting their rights in **Spartly & Parcel Islands** respectively. Other players include Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.

► **TAIWAN ISSUE**

United States has backed participation of Taiwan at the United Nations. However, this move of US has been condemned by China as it considers Taiwan as its province and its inalienable part.

- It is part of a string of islands off the coast of East and Southeast Asia extending from Japan south through the Philippines to Indonesia.
- Taiwan is bounded to the north and northeast by the **East China Sea**, with the Ryukyu Islands (the southernmost part of Japan) to the northeast.
- To the east there lies the great expanse of the Pacific Ocean and to the south is the **Bashi Channel**, which separates Taiwan from the Philippines.



- To the west is the **Taiwan (Formosa) Strait**, which separates Taiwan from the Chinese mainland.

► **GLOBAL CRISIS RESPONSE GROUP ON FOOD, ENERGY & FINANCE**

- This body has been constituted by the Secretary General of United Nations, Antonio Guterres in the UN Secretariat.
- This body will assisted by the Steering Committee of Global Crisis Response Group
- Deputy Secretary General of UN, Amina Mohammed will lead the Steering Committee of GCRG.

► **GREEN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

India and Denmark agreed on a five-year action plan to take forward their unique “green strategic partnership” and signed four agreements aimed at boosting cooperation in green technologies and management of natural resources such as groundwater.

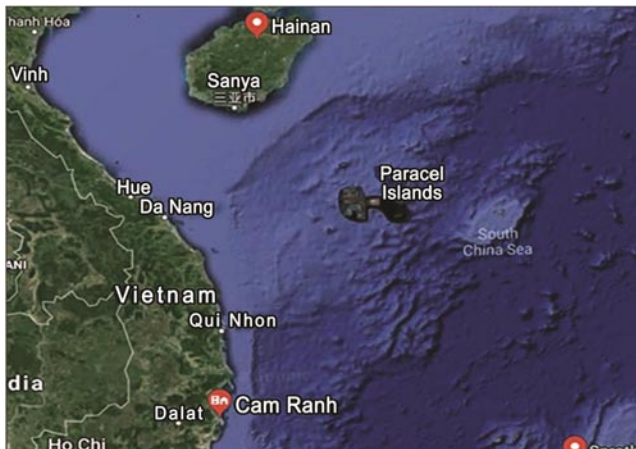
► **MARIB**

It is a town in Yemen, where a recent skirmish between the Houthi rebels and Yemen Government backed by Saudi Government led to loss of life of many fighters. Houthis are backed by Iran and are Shia.



► **CAM RANH BAY BASE**

It is naval and air force base in Vietnam. Under a security agreement with Vietnam, India has been given access to this base by Vietnam. Thus, this base gives a foothold to India in the strategic South China Sea.



► **KUNDUZ**

At least 100 people have been killed and wounded after a suicide bomb attack tore through in Afghanistan's northeastern Kunduz province



► **UKRAINE**

- Russian attacks on Ukraine and the related locations



CITIES IN NEWS WHICH HAVE COME UNDER RUSSIAN ATTACK





► NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES OF UKRAINE



► BLACK SEA SURROUNDING COUNTRIES



► RIVERS DRAINING INTO THE BLACK SEA

DANUBE, DNIESTER, DNIEPER, DON.
KYIV THE CAPITAL OF UKRAINE IS LOCATED ON DNIEPER



► MAJOR RIVERS OF EUROPE



► NORD STREAM 2 PIPELINE

Germany has halted certification of the Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline in response to the Russian Move in Ukraine

Germany halts Nord Stream 2

Berlin halted certification of an \$11.6bn Russian gas pipeline project while Western states prepare to sanction Moscow over Ukraine. The 1,230km pipeline is designed to move 151 million cubic metres of gas a day.



► **BALTIC SEA**

BORDERING COUNTRIES.



► **MINSK ACCORDS**

The Minsk 1 and II accords, reached in 2014 and 2015, had brought a ceasefire between the Russian-backed rebels in Ukraine’s Donbas region, and put forward a formula for resolving the conflict.

- However, the terms of these process were never Implemented on ground.
- This process has ended because of the Russia recognition.

► **AGALEGA & ASSUMPTION ISLANDS**

Indian PM Narendra Modi had signed MoUs to develop infrastructure on these islands

Recently Al Jazeera reported on the construction of an airstrip and two jetties to house an Indian military base on Agalega island.

Mauritian government affirmed that the construction work awarded in 2015 is still ongoing but **denied any**

plans to allow a military installation on the Agalega island.



► **MASIRAH – OMAN**

An Israeli Oil tanker Ship was attacked near Masirah located in Oman. US and Israel have blamed Iran for the attack. This attack and the following allegations will further add fuel to the fire in the ongoing Middle East rivalries.



► **PANJSHIR**



The leaders of Panjshir valley along with the former vice president Amrulla Salleh were putting up the last resistance against Taliban. However it has now been captured by the Taliban

► **NANGARHAR – AFGHANISTAN**

America conducted drone strikes against ISIS - K in response to the Explosions at Kabul Airport - claimed by ISIS - which killed more than 100 people which included 13 American soldiers.

China’s first rail-road link to Indian Ocean

The first shipments on a newly-launched railway line from the Myanmar border to the key commercial hub of Chengdu in western China, that provides China a new road-rail transportation channel to the Indian Ocean, were delivered recently.



► **NINE DASH LINE**

Chinese authorities have said that they will require a range of vessels “to report their information” when passing through what China sees as its “territorial waters” in the South China Sea.

The “nine dash line” is deemed by most countries as being inconsistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which only gives states the right to establish a territorial sea up to 12 nautical miles.

The requirements of the latest notice will also be seen as being inconsistent with UNCLOS, which states that ships of all countries “enjoy the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea”.

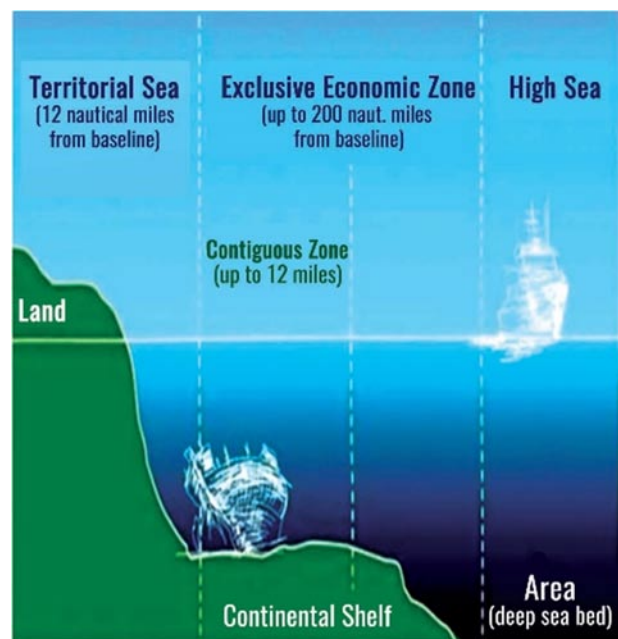
US\$ 5 trillion global trade passes through its sea lanes and over 55% of India’s trade passes through South China Sea and Malacca Straits.



► **TERRITORIAL SEAS UNDER UNCLOS**

Territorial sea, as defined by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, is a belt of coastal waters extending at most 12 nautical miles (22 km; 14 mi) from the baseline of a coastal state.

The territorial sea is regarded as the sovereign territory of the state, although foreign ships (military and civilian) are allowed innocent passage through it, or transit passage for straits; this sovereignty also extends to the airspace over and seabed below.



► **INNOCENT PASSAGE**

- Innocent passage is a concept in the law of the sea that allows for a vessel to pass through the archipelagic and territorial waters of another state, subject to certain restrictions.
- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea Article 19 defines innocent passage as
- Passage is innocent so long as it is not prejudicial to the peace, good order or security of the coastal State. Such passage shall take place in conformity with this Convention and with other rules of international law.

► **GREEN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

India and Denmark agreed on a five-year action plan to take forward their unique “green strategic partnership” and signed four agreements aimed at boosting cooperation in green technologies and management of natural resources such as groundwater.

► **TRINCOMALEE**

Sri Lankan cabinet has given approval to jointly develop with India 61 tanks out of the 99 tanks in the Trincomalee oil tank farm.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

- It is a Natural harbor.
- Location is strategically important for India.
- India has talked about developing Trincomalee is a regional petroleum Hub.
- The Presence of Indian Oil subsidiary has seen opposition in Sri Lanka.
- The opposition is led by the Sinhala nationalists.



► **YEMEN LOCATIONS**

Houthi rebels of Yemen attacked UAE through Drone in which two Indians and a Pakistani national were killed.



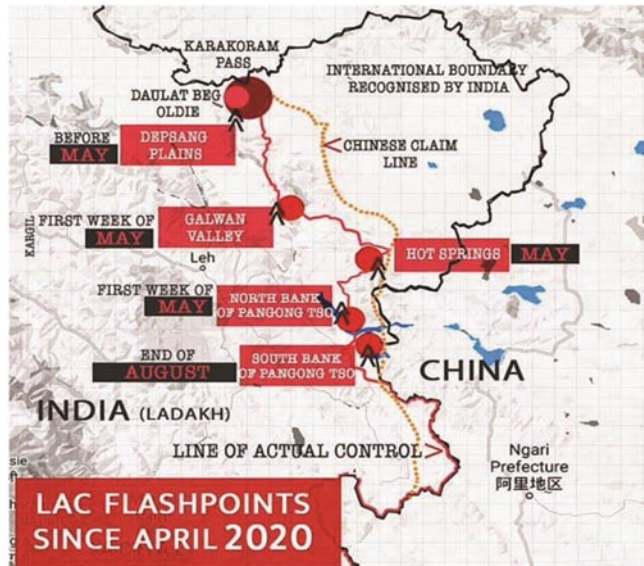
► **KAZAKHSTAN**

Kazakhstan witnessed widespread Protest on New Year . The rise in fuel prices was seen as the immediate trigger for the protests and brought to the fore grievances over structural problems like corruption and socio-economic inequality.





a few months and will give the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) an edge in speedily moving troops between several locations.



► **COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANISATION (CSTO)**

To deal with the Protests Kazakh president called the CSTO for Help.

- The CSTO is a Russia-dominated security alliance which was established after the USSR’s fall when some members of the Commonwealth of Independent States signed a mutual defence treaty named the Collective Security Treaty.
- The CSTO has six members today: **Russia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan.**

► **PANGONG TSO LAKE**

A bridge being built by China across the Pangong lake in an area claimed by India is expected to be completed in

Part - B

MCQ'S & ANSWER KEY

Q1. Which of the following countries share borders with Sea of Azov?

1. Ukraine
2. Bulgaria
3. Russia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q2. AL Aqsa mosques sometimes seen in the news is located in which of the following countries?

- (a) Turkey
- (b) Israel
- (c) Iraq
- (d) Iran

Q3. Gaza Shares border with which of the following?

1. Jordan
2. Mediterranean sea
3. Egypt

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q4. Kyaukphyu port sometimes seen in the news is located in which of the following countries?

- (a) China
- (b) Thailand
- (c) Myanmar
- (d) Taiwan

Q5. Iron dome sometimes seen in the news is related to which of the following?

- (a) South Korea
- (b) China
- (c) Israel
- (d) India

Q6. With reference to "17 plus 1 Initiative", consider the following:

1. It is a Russia-led initiative to expand cooperation with eastern European countries
2. It is considered as an answer to the BRI initiative of China

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q7. Which of the following statements about "Asia-pacific economic cooperation" is/are correct?

1. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a regional defence forum of Asia Pacific countries.

2. All the Pacific rim countries are members of this forum.

3. India has observer status in the forum.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1 and 2 only

Q8. Which of the following countries were invited as guest countries in the recently concluded 47th G7 summit?

- (a) India, Mexico, Israel and South Korea
- (b) Israel, India, South Africa and Mexico
- (c) India, Australia, South Africa and South Korea
- (d) Australia, Israel, India and South Korea

Q9. Consider the following statements:

1. UNGA president is elected once in every 3 years.
2. UN general secretary is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q10. Arrange the following Ports in West to East order:

1. Bander-e-Abbas
2. Gwadar
3. Chabahar
4. Port of Duqm

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1-4-3-2
- (b) 2-4-3-1
- (c) 1-3-4-2
- (d) 4-1-3-2

Q11. Which of the following countries are members of SCO and share border with Afghanistan?

1. Turkmenistan
2. Iran
3. Pakistan
4. Tajikistan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q12. Which of the following released "Fit for 55 package"?

- (a) ASEAN
- (b) BRICS
- (c) G20
- (d) EU

Q13. Mekong River passes through which of the following countries?

1. China
2. Bhutan
3. Myanmar
4. Malaysia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q14. The North Sea is bordered by which of the following countries?

1. Ireland
2. England
3. Denmark
4. France

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q15. Consider the following statements:

1. The 7th Indian Ocean naval symposium was hosted by French Navy.
2. It is an alliance meant for maritime security.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q16. Agalega Island sometimes seen in the news is located in which of the following?

- (a) Mediterranean Sea
- (b) Black Sea
- (c) Indian Ocean
- (d) Pacific Ocean

Q17. Consider the following pairs:

S.No.	Location	Country
1.	Panjshir valley	Afghanistan
2.	Nangarhar	Tajikistan
3.	Chengdu	Myanmar

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q18. Which of the following countries share border with the Black Sea?

1. Bulgaria
2. Moldova
3. Turkey

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q19. Masirah was recently in news, is in which of the following countries?

- (a) Oman
- (b) Yemen
- (c) Iran
- (d) Syria

Q20. Sunda strait is located between which of the following?

- (a) Andaman and Nicobar
- (b) Java and Sumatra
- (c) Java and Malay Peninsula
- (d) Java and Borneo

Q21. India has finalized a Green strategic Partnership with which of the following countries?

- (a) Russia
- (b) China
- (c) Israel
- (d) Denmark

Q22. Consider the following pairs:

S.No.	Locations in news	Country
1.	Marib	Yemen
2.	Cam Ranh bay base	China
3.	Kunduz	Afghanistan

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q23. Which of the following countries is/are the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization?

1. Iran
2. Pakistan
3. Afghanistan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q24. Which of the following is/are the common member of Quad and the AUKUS?

1. Australia
2. Japan
3. United Kingdom

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q25. Consider the following statements ABRAHAM

Accords:

- (a) Normalisation of diplomatic relations between Iran and Israel
- (b) Normalisation of diplomatic relations between USA and Israel
- (c) Normalisation of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel
- (d) Normalisation of diplomatic relations between UAE and Israel

Q26. Which of the following countries are part of both Middle East Quad and Indo-Pacific Quad:

- (a) India and Japan (b) India and USA
- (c) Australia and USA (d) USA and UK

Q27. The Resistance Front, a terror organisation recently in news is active in which of the following areas:

- (a) Nagaland (b) Manipur
- (c) Punjab (d) Jammu & Kashmir

Q28. Enhanced Trade Partnership is a trade partnership that India is negotiating with which of the following countries:

- (a) USA (b) Australia
- (c) UAE (d) UK

Q29. Which of the following countries became the first Arab country to launch a satellite to Mars:

- (a) UAE (b) Saudi Arabia
- (c) Iran (d) Egypt

Q30. Which of the following countries is/are the members of the G20 countries?

- 1. Mexico 2. Brazil
- 3. European union

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q31. CAATSA law sometimes seen in news is a law of which of the following

- (a) United Nations
- (b) European Union
- (c) United States of America
- (d) Russia

Q32. GSP sometimes seen in the news is related to which of the following?

- (a) Trade (b) Arms Exports
- (c) Nuclear proliferation (d) Terrorism

Q33. Formosa is the name of which of the following?

- (a) Japanese island (b) Taiwan
- (c) Philippines (d) South Korea

Q34. BSF is under the administrative control of which of the following?

- (a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (b) Ministry of defence
- (c) Prime ministers Office
- (d) Cabinet Secretariat

Q35. "Global gateway program" sometimes seen in the news is related to which of the following?

- (a) USA (b) ASEAN
- (c) QUAD (d) European Union

Q36. "RELOS - Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement" sometimes seen in the news is being negotiated between India and which of the following countries?

- (a) USA (b) Japan
- (c) Australia (d) Russia

Q37. Which of the following central Asian republics share border with Afghanistan?

- 1. Uzbekistan
- 2. Kazakhstan
- 3. Tajikistan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q38. Which of the following countries share border with the Caspian Sea?

- 1. Uzbekistan
- 2. Kazakhstan
- 3. Turkmenistan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only

- (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q39. Which of the following states does not share a border with Myanmar?

- (a) Nagaland (b) Manipur
(c) Mizoram (d) Tripura

Q40. Which of the countries surround the Black Sea?

1. Russia 2. Ukraine
3. Greece 4. Turkey
5. Iran

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 3, 4 and 5 only (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Q41. Arrange the following locations from North to South:

1. Daulat Beg Oldie 2. Galwan Valley
3. Pangong Tso Lake 4. Hot Springs

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 (b) 4, 3, 2 and 1
(c) 1, 2, 4 and 3 only (d) 2, 1, 4 and 3 only

Q42. The report 'Our Common Agenda' on reforming multilateralism has been released by:

- (a) UN
(b) World Bank
(c) World Trade Organisation
(d) World Economic Forum

Q43. Consider the following statements about NATO:

1. All the members of EU are members of NATO.
2. NATO treats attack on any one member as attack on all members.
3. New members of NATO can only be European Countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q44. Donetsk and Luhansk, two regions recently in the news form the part of which of the following countries:

- (a) Turkey (b) Ukraine

- (c) Belarus (d) Kazakhstan.

Q45. Which of the following are seaports in Ukraine:

1. Kharkiv 2. Odessa
3. Kherson 4. Mariupol
5. Chernobyl

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 2, 3 and 4 only (b) 1, 4 and 5 only
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Q46. Which of the following countries share border with Ukraine?

1. Poland 2. Greece
3. Belarus 4. Moldova
5. Turkey

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 2, 4 and 5 only (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Q47. Which of the following rivers passes through Ukraine?

1. Dneiper 2. Don
3. Danube 4. Dneister
5. Vistula

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only (b) 1, 2 and 5 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

Q48. Consider the following statements:

1. Russia and Ukraine are one the largest producers of Sunflower in the world.
2. Russia is the largest producer of Wheat in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q49. Consider the following statements about UNSC:

1. Veto powers can be used on all issues by P5 members.
2. Veto powers are also available in the General Assembly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

5
IN TOP
10

50
IN TOP
100

Rau's IAS
Study Circle
Since 1953

OUR UPSC
RESULT
2020

300+
SELECTIONS
IN CSE 2020



GS INTEGRATED QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM for CSE 2022

GOAL

Enable you to secure
TOP RANK in CSE.

Enrich your **Knowledge** &
test taking **skills**

Make your Self Study
time **Disciplined & Structured**

FEATURES



**250+ HOURS OF
KNOWLEDGE ENHANCEMENT
& REVISION CLASSES**
Current Affairs, Prelims
& Mains Revision & Practice



**INTEGRATED PRELIMS &
MAINS TEST SERIES
& DISCUSSIONS**
Prelims (59 tests)
Mains (30 tests)



**EXAM CENTRIC NOTES
BY TEACHERS**
Monthly Focus
Prelims Compass
Mains Compass



Live-Online classes.
Video back up of classes
till Prelims & Mains.



Flexibility to attempt
tests (Online / Offline)
till Prelims & Mains.



Trusted High Quality
UPSC centric teaching
by experts

PERSONAL MENTORSHIP TILL SELECTION



Scan here to
download **Rau's IAS
eLearn App**



GSi QIP is in session.
**ADMISSIONS OPEN
APPLY NOW**

for more
information,
Scan



Rau's IAS Head Office

309, Kanchenjunga Building, 18 Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001

www.rauias.com | 011 - 40786050 | www.elearn.rauias.com

5
IN TOP
10

17
IN TOP
30

300+
overall
selections

50
IN TOP
100

Congratulations Our Super Achievers...



GS INTEGRATED FOUNDATION COURSE

UPCOMING BATCHES

1 year Regular
Course for CSE 2023

1.5 years Weekend
Course for CSE 2023

LIVE - ((●)) NLINE BATCHES

8 Apr

16 Apr

OFFLINE BATCHES

(Santized classrooms
with Covid safety protocols)

Delhi
8 Apr

Bengaluru
8 Apr



Scan here to watch
Rau's IAS Online
classes review by
UPSC aspirants

**ADMISSIONS OPEN
APPLY NOW**

Scan here to download
Rau's IAS eLearn App



NEW DELHI | 011-40786050, 9810184722, 7387992102, 8826939973, 7568054231 | BENGALURU | 080 - 414 26050, 9916035536, 8861822955 | JAIPUR | 0141 - 4106050, 8209203177, 7568054231

www.rauias.com | 011 - 40786050 | www.elearn.rauias.com

PRICE : ₹ 100/-

For Business
enquires Contact

Mr. Ashutosh Pande (Marketing Manager)
7568054231 | ashutoshpande@rauias.com